

ARTICLES FROM TAOS NEWS
TAILINGS SPILLS

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- 3/10/66 March 5, - line breaks, slurry in irrigation ditch - covers yard. (photo)
Petty "tailings disposal remains a difficult problem."
- 7/7/66 July 1 & 4 - four breaks, tailings in river and flood Goat Hill campground.
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(see Mar 15 Letter "Enchanted Streams" "We come back and camp at Goat Hill."
- 9/15/66 lines repaired - drop boxes added.
- 11/17/66 Nov. 14 break in discharge line at tailings pond, effluent runs 2 hours.
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over past five years."
- 12/17/70 Letter "Why do Molycorp's pipes break?" refers to 11/17 & 11/30 breaks.
Suggests as possible remedy more drop boxes as at Climax mine. (cf. 6/9/77
& 2/12/75)
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- 4/24/75 July 6, '74, Jan 13, '75, April 9, '75. Spills into Red River & Goat Hill
Campground. 2 spills reported late, April spill not reported. Suspected 248
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TAILINGS DUST

- 3/2/78 Letter - tailing dam blows pollutants to Questa High School.
- 8/17/78 Molycorp will use chemical stabilizers to prevent wind erosion of tailings.
- 5/10/79 "Coming into Questa from Taos you can see the dust blowing off the ponds." Usual 70 mile visibility cut to under two miles.
- ✓ 5/17/79 Rash of complaints and surge in patient load at Clinic because of dust.
- 6/14/79 Letter - Cover tailings with topsoil and plant vegetation.
- 6/21/79 Molycorp dust control program - surfactant, spigotting and revegetation.
- 10/4/79 EID says no health threat posed by ponds.
- 10/11/79 Company and EID studies show roadside dust is more contaminating than tailings dust.
- 4/17/80 Dust continues to blow in spite of surfactants. Local citizens group photographs blowing dust.
- ✓ 5/29/80 May 24 - Dust causes play to be stopped at State Baseball Championship game. PHOTO
EID says last analysis of dust done a year ago.
- 7/17/80 Questa Village council appoints committee to meet with Molycorp officials about blowing dust.
Village attorney says of dust blowing towards High School, "es una verguenza."
- 8/28/80 Revegetation efforts described as trying to plant a garden on the moon.
- 10/30/80 October 22 - Citizens meet, charge Molycorp with air pollution. Molycorp's Thompson says tailings dust is only a nuisance and not a health hazard and not a critical problem since spraying program began..
- ✓ 2/5/81 Jan 30 - High winds whip up tailings. PHOTO Monitoring gauge at High School. Last EID report on air quality in Questa was in 1978.
- 2/19/81 Feb. 10 - Dustiest day of year. Photo of dust blowing over village of Questa. Molycorp will spray surfactant in March.
- 4/9/81 April 8 - Questa High School students walk out of class to protest blowing dust from tailings ponds. Say dust disturbs their studies.
- ✓ 4/16/81 April 8 - hundred QHS students march to mine. On April 7 couldn't see 100 yards, dust hurts eyes, damages contact lenses, interferes with athletic practice, they say. PHOTOS
- 4/16/81 Molycorp says surfactant is sprayed daily in dry months but high winds or equipment can damage crust.

5/14/81 May 7 - Students meet with Molycorp officials, show slide show of dust.
May 11 - Students sit out against dust.
Report results of survey of students and teachers on health effects of dust, visitors reactions.

6/4/81 Letter - Danger to lungs of tailing pond dust and suggestions for controlling dust.

7/20/81 Resident remembers hunting rabbits and the small ponds in canyon (La Candita) now buried in tailings. Turquoise Lake buried. Dust problems began soon after tailings were dumped.

9/17/81 School board study analyzing dust not ready. Residents accuse department of lack of commitment to dust problem.

10/1/81 High School relocation considered.
School has had dust problems since built in '68.

11/26/81 Molycorp - dust is a problem but it will end. Whole pond will be growing grass 8 inches high in 8 years.

1/28/82 Jan 19 - special meeting to discuss results of tailings analysis by Colorado School of Mines (CSM). Study shows high arsenic levels. Questa school superintendent suggests moving school if dust problem is not solved. Air pollution monitor said to be unreliable.

2/18/82 EID places new dust monitor at school which will measure percentage of particles being inhaled. Particles smaller than .0005 millimeters reach the lungs; larger particles are trapped by nasal passages.
Molycorp will contact CSM to reconcile discrepancies between their respective studies.

4/1/82 March 29 - heavy winds spread dust over high school. School closing was considered but a snowstorm cleared the air.
School board meeting - considers retrofitting school to protect students from dust.
New data from CSM shows arsenic levels at 8 pp/m instead of 400 pp/m originally reported.

4/29/82 dust monitor not working.

5/20/82 May 11 - Concerned Citizens present list of requests to Questa school board: refund of money paid to CSM, alternate technology to control dust since spraying doesn't work, relocation of school at Molycorp's expense.

6/3/82 Letter - conflict of interest, 5 of 7 school board members work for Molycorp.

6/10/82 "common sense and science clash" On dust, too soon to see chronic effects.
Monitor inadequate, only checked once in six days.

6/24/82 Letter - Over the years in spite of Molycorp's efforts we still had dust problems. This year Molycorp's efforts have paid off, there has been no dust

6/16/83 Letter - to BLM re dangers of tailing site in Guadalupe Mts. Former BLM land, now Molycorp's tailings dump, is present health threat.

9/10/83 Molycorp promo - Cindy Stark. "Molycorp has been able to conquer its most overriding environmental challenge ... blowing dust." Seventy Six

1/12/84 Letter - "incredible brownouts" - "disruptions and closure of High School.

5/3/84 April 26 - Village Council meeting - dust reported blowing from tailings ponds five times in April. Leroy Apodaca of Molycorp says some days there will always be dust.
EID responding to number of citizen complaints about dust will double its testing efforts. Description of monitors and time-lapse camera at high school. Report due in late summer '84.

12/13/84 Letter - refutes Molycorp statement that tree planting project at mine was a success. Mortality rate of trees was very high.
State personnel formerly assigned to monitor air quality in Questa now employed by Molycorp.

3/21/85 March 18 - Village Council Meeting with EID representative. EID will release in April reports on local air quality from studies in Spring/Summer of '84. Air samples from monitors at High School, and analysis of molybdenum tailings and nearby soil will be released in May.

Molycorp rejects by memo tailings dust proposals suggested by councilmen. Suggestions include spot sprinklers to keep tailings wet, early reclaiming of the area adjacent to high school, and putting tailings back into open pit.

5/16/85 Letter - ten state and three federal air quality standards violated since 1979, according to EID. Molycorp's monitoring stations have not been maintained or operated properly.

5/30/85 Letter - Straighten priorities - "Here's a company that can spend \$250 million for expansion but can't ... wet down their tailings pond so the dust doesn't choke our children every spring."

6/13/85 "they come, they strip and spill and they leave."

8/8/85 Director of Instruction for Questa says dust causes low visibility at school.

2/86 Mine closes

2/20/86 Your Turn - Questa will be "fighting to keep from being inundated by windblown tailings deposits."

3/20/86 100 acres of section 36 to be capped (6 in.) Capping a temporary measure as opposed to reclamation.

5/1/86 Molycorp may cap more ponds with six inches of dirt and rock.

5/29/86 Letter - New proposed school site wrong - right on NE corner of tailing site. reiterates ~~cancellation~~ of baseball tournament.
halting

8/28/88 Editorial "Tailings disposal sites can devastate environment."

8/28/88 Letter - "What a Dump" "I live near Questa and see clouds of dust from the tailings site.... I often wonder what is in that cloud that we breathe because nothing ... grows...."

✓ 1/26/89 Letter - answers above letter. Details 1979 EPA tailings dust analysis of lead, zinc, copper, beryllium, cadmium, arsenic. Writer a respiratory therapist who saw oxygen machine filters clogged with inhalable powder.

5/4/89 Mine reopens

1/10/91 Letter - "... a beautiful windy day in Questa except for dust storm ... Que mal, tan bonita que era Questa."

✓ 4/18/91 April 10 - Middle School closes early. High winds whip up clouds of tailings dust. EID back to collecting samples every six days. Data on current air quality not available for six months. Questa may ask Unocal Foundation to move school.
"... foundation that has the capacity to move towns."

5/9/91 Letter - To EID re dust on April 10 and sample taking and violations and fines.

12/5/91 Mine closes. Cartoon "No more pollution/ no more jobs."

7/29/93 EID will hold hearings on proposed regulation to control "fugitive dust" from tailings dump. Approx. 6.5 million tons annually of mine waste pumped into tailings pond.

✓ 8/19/93 August 13 - Eight hour hearing. Only 2 of 5 members of EID present at hearing. Shoemaker says dust is no more hazardous than from a farmer's field and disputes a school nurse's contention that dust had blown into the school. It was "conceivable it may have, but that was many years ago."
Citizens show photos to prove that capping of ponds not 90% complete as Molycorp contends.

12/9/93 Dust proposal killed by EID. Mayor Gallegos was "content" with decision.

10/12/95 Letter - "During the spring winds next year you can sample both the tailings in Questa ... - with your lungs - and think for a moment about how our government agencies don't enforce the law, neither do they obey it."

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Environmental impacts

1965: Molybdenum Corporation of America (later "Molycorp") begins operating a massive open pit strip-mine east of Questa, with a slurry pipeline running 8 miles along the Red River to supply tailings waste ponds just west of town

1966: US Dept. of Health, Education & Welfare finds that overall water quality of the Red River is 'good to exceptional'

Tailings pipe break spills thick mine slurry into irrigation ditch, yards and gardens

Cyanide up to 3.8 ppm, lethal to trout, is 'decanted' from tailings ponds into Red River

1968: 'Turquoise Lake' tailings pond is stocked with 2,000 lbs of trout, many of which die on eve of facility's dedication

1970: NM Dept. of Game & Fish (DGF) reports 50 breaks in tailings pipes over past five years

1971: US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) determines that water quality in the Red River remains good, except for

contamination from breaks in tailings pipeline

★ 1974: EPA finds elevated molybdenum concentrations in vegetation along Red River and Rio Grande

1975: Molycorp pays State compensation for kill of 248 rainbow trout

1976: NM Environment Dept. documents contamination of private wells by mine tailings pond seepage

1977: 2,350 Red River hatchery fish are lost after tailings spill

★ 1979: EPA analysis shows that dust blown over Questa from tailings dump contains lead, cadmium, arsenic and mercury

State Baseball Championship game in Questa is halted because of tailings dust storm

1981: Questa High School students march to Molycorp to protest tailings dust; school relocation is considered

47th reported tailings spill in past five years; Molycorp is ordered to upgrade tailings pipes, pays \$31,500 fine

1982: EPA study concludes that the Red

River is substantially impaired from metals loading, with acute levels of arsenic, cadmium and silver

1983: 1,600 ft deep open pit closes, leaving 500 acres of waste rock dumps containing 328 million tons of acid-generating material

1985: Molycorp is fined \$10,000 for tailings spill into Red River

1987: during mid-1980s, water in the Red River is turned 'electric' blue by suspended aluminum compounds

1990: At least seven tailings pipe spills take place, many to irrigation ditches

1993: elevated levels of iron, manganese and zinc are found in monitoring wells below tailings ponds

1994: NM Water Quality Control Commission reports that metal-contaminated seeps adjacent to the mine have "rendered [the river] dead for at least 8 miles"

1995: Amigos Bravos sues Molycorp under federal Clean Water Act over acid, metal-laden drainage from waste rock dumps

1996: NM Environment Dept. report concludes that mine Acid Rock Drainage (ARD) is having the greatest pollution impact on the Red River, with the potential to progressively worsen. The Red is one of the most severely metal-loaded streams in New Mexico

already have elevated levels of lead, zinc and copper

1998: 30th anniversary of 'Turquoise Lake', now a 65-acre dry tailings site, the cause of frequent dust storms



EPA report confirms that a hydrologic connection between waste rock dumps and contaminated seeps has been "adequately established"

1999: NM Office of Natural Resources Trustee scientists find a substantial increase in metals loading in Red River downstream of the mine site, with much of the increase (especially in aluminum) having occurred in the 1980s, consistent with ARD generation by the mine waste rock dumps

2000: while the mine is in operation, over 100,000 gallons per day of contaminated groundwater is collected in underground workings and pumped to the tailings ponds, which

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Phil Spelman

Just doggin' it

The lady in the fo'c'sle is working hard at getting rid of some excess water in the raft, the oarsman warily eyes the river ahead and the dog in the stern looks like he wishes he

was burying a bone on dry land. This interesting scene came during the annual Rio Grand White Water Races near Pilar Sunday (May 13).

Prison detention facility stalled

at a meeting with criminal justice officials Friday (May 18).
Until separate quarters for juveniles are constructed, the county jail remains on probationary status with the Justice Department.
In a surprise move, the Commission cited economic reasons for a resolution to pull out of the metro squad.
Under a joint powers agreement with the town and the district attorney's office, the county has contributed a third of the cost of maintaining the squad, a criminal investigation group formed several years ago.
The Commission has reportedly been dissatisfied with its share of services received from the squad, and with the district attorney's office that oversees it.
One commissioner said before the meeting that the county might look into obtaining its own legal representation, rather than using the district attorney's services.
The commission moved to give

District Attorney Margaret Lamb the required 90 day's notice of its intention to withdraw.
Plans for another hoped-for county facility also received a setback. Ed Rosenberg, director of La Tuatah Alcoholism Center, said that a state grant of \$83,000 for operating expenses could not be handed over unless the proposed structure is built on county owned land.
Present plans call for financial assistance from the county to build a three-bedroom drying out facility on the grounds of Holy Cross Hospital. State Department of Finance and Administration

rules prohibit the county from building on land it does not own, Rosenberg said.
Rosenberg and Pat Heyman, who heads the Mental Health Council which oversees La Tuatah, stated they had explored every avenue in seeking funds to purchase the needed quarter acre of ground.
Montoya told the commission, "Perhaps we can persuade Melvin Welmer to let us have a small piece of land adjacent to the two-acre parcel behind the courthouse we are negotiating to buy."
The commission instructed

Montoya to pursue the matter this week.
On the bright side, two brand new baseball fields may be ready for use in July, according to an optimistic report from Del Torrez, federal programs director.
The purchase of seven acres of level land near the Sheriff's Posse rodeo arena from Welmer for \$7,500 per acre is going along smoothly, Torrez said. He also has an informal commitment from Welmer to sell the county a two-acre wedge between the two areas at a future date.

Sprayer on job at Moly

QUESTA — Everything has blown over at Molycorp; last week's winds have abated, and the delayed agricultural sprayer

is spraying a dust suppressant on mine tailings.
Any toxic effects of the particles, which blew into the town of Questa, causing a rash of complaints and a surge in the patient load at the Questa Health Clinic, will not be known for several weeks.
Samples of the tailings and of residual dust at Questa High School were taken May 9 by Warren Slade of the state Air Quality Division. He said they are undergoing laboratory analysis for heavy metals such as lead, zinc and cadmium and does not expect the results before the end of the month.
Although an air quality monitor had been installed at the high school by the Environmental Improvement Division, no samples were obtained at the height of the windstorm because of a "communications breakdown," Slade said. School personnel are now being shown how to operate the gadget, which collects air samples that can be sent for analysis.
Meanwhile, spraying of all Molycorp tailings piles, beaches and berms began Thursday, May 10, according to Lew Thompson,

public relations spokesman. The machine is laying down a surfactant, or dust suppressant, which forms a crust over the tailings that should last a year or more.
"It is doing what it was tested to do," Thompson said. The substance, of which Molycorp has purchased 55,000 gallons, has been tested by the Bureau of Mines.
The job of surfacing all the tailings should take two weeks, after which the sprayer will continue repeating the process through the fall, halting only when winter snows cover the material, said Thompson.
The tractor-pulled sprayer was ordered several months ago, but a truckers' strike delayed its delivery until the worst of the winds had abated.
An ongoing program of covering tailings with topsoil and planting grass is underway again after last week's interruption.
Moderately heavy winds blew again Tuesday afternoon (May 11), but according to one Questa resident, the dust blowing from the direction of the tailings ponds was "not as bad," and visibility was much clearer than last week.

to plead guilty to a charge of break in October 1973 in the Fourth Judicial District the next day, Thursday.
The charges were one-five counts of receiving stolen goods served consecutively, and a year sentence for the attack.
He has been in Taos County Jail in August 1973, and the two years all but the eight months already served.
He is on probation for two years, stay out of Taos and Rio during that time.

Cabinet to visit

Gov. Bruce King will bring several key cabinet members to Taos June 5 for a fund-raising event for state Sen. C.B. Trujillo, D-Taos-Mora-San Miguel.
King and his cabinet will swing through Taos County as part of a statewide effort to bring state government to the people.
Trujillo will be honored at a \$25-a-plate, star-studded dinner at Kachina Lodge.

Trujillo jailed

Manuel O. "Tave" Trujillo, a former Taos County Fair chairman convicted in 1978 on a charge of aggravated battery will stay in prison despite an attempt last week by his attorney to get the man freed on probation.
Judge John B. Wright upheld a 2-10 year sentence handed down last month after Trujillo had broken conditions of his two-year probation set in May, 1978.
Trujillo pled guilty to the battery charge on May 1, 1978 in district court in Taos. He was placed on two-year probation with the condition that he not drink or go into any establishment that sells liquor.
District Attorney Margaret Lamb said Trujillo was jailed in Taos last month on a charge of aggravated battery, and a petition to revoke his probation was filed.
Judge Wright then sentenced Trujillo to 2-10 years in the State Penitentiary.

Wins again

ninth grader at Taos Junior High School won one of 10 New Mexican awards from the International San Antonio, Texas last year probation set in May, 1978.
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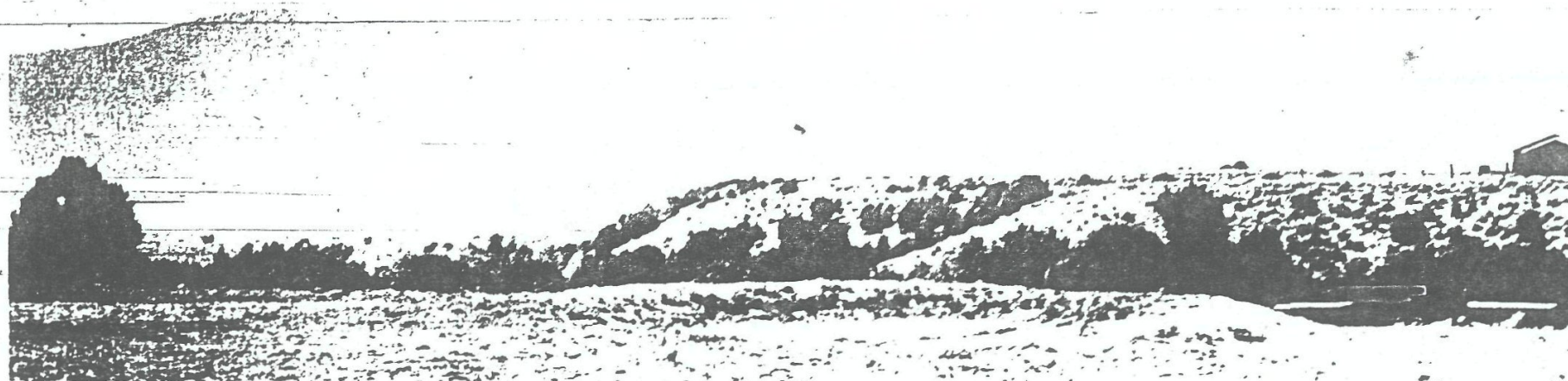
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en los valles

THE TAOS NEWS Thursday, May 24, 1980

1980



In the wind...

Play was stopped several times Saturday (May 24) in the State AA Baseball Championship game between Questa and Hatch

(Hatch won) because of low visibility caused by blowing dust. The Questa Volunteer Fire Department tried to water

down the area around the field, but as this photograph from near Questa Junior-Senior High School shows, the dust was coming

from MolyCorp's tailings ponds just west of town. High winds stirred up the tailings in mid morning.

MolyCorp's tailings blow, spill in river

QUESTA — Molybdenum milling waste flowed into the Red River and tailings pond dust blew across the Sunshine Valley near here last week.

The spill, May 20, was caused by a break in a tailings pipe about a quarter-mile west of the mine entrance. It was estimated that a ton of waste spilled into the Red River 30 minutes before the break was repaired.

The dust was caused by high winds, Saturday (May 24), whipping across the area west of Questa

where MolyCorp maintains several "ponds" which allow the tailings slurry to settle, so water used in the process can be put back into the Red River.

The dust caused play to be delayed several times in the State AA Baseball Tournament at Questa High School. Several baseball fans blamed the tailings ponds for the dust, but the state Environmental Improvement Division had received no complaints by Monday (May 26).

MolyCorp has used a chemical spray on the ponds in an effort to stop dust from blowing

down the area around the field, but as this photograph from near Questa Junior-Senior High School shows, the dust was coming

Ken Hargis of the EID office in Santa Fe said air quality monitors remain near the high school, but the agency has had trouble finding anyone to check them and change filters.

He said the last chemical analyses on the dust were done about a year ago. Those analyses reported no serious health hazards, EID reported. Cordova, head of Taos' EID office, was on leave May 20 when the spill occurred. He said he was driving by the area when he noticed tailings

around the pipe. He said he notified his office, but the spill already had been reported.

MolyCorp spokesman Lewis Thompson of Santa Fe said most of the milling tailings were collected in shelves near the mill gate. "The spring runoff already muddy and we added to that cloudiness in a few miles," Thompson said.

He said EID, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, the U.S. Bureau of Land Management and the state Game and Fish Department were notified of the spill.

Contentious hearing's focus: dust from Moly mine tailings

By Bob Mentzinger
The Taos News

Citizens of Questa clashed with representatives of the mining industry over a proposed state regulation to curtail airborne dust from molybdenum tailings at a hearing Friday (Aug. 13).

Mining officials called the proposed regulation "unenforceable" and "unnecessarily vague and ambiguous."

Representatives of Concerned Citizens del Norte — a Questa environmental group — said the proposed law did not go far enough, and offered a more restrictive regulation.

Ripley Harwood, a lawyer for the state environment department — which proposed the regulation — called the proposal "a tailored approach" that says a mine operator can "do whatever you want as long as you don't step on your neighbor's toes."

Bill Blankenship of the state environment department's air quality division said the effect of the law may well come down to the "enforcement strategy," admitting the limited resources of the environment department may undermine the regulation if approved.

"There's not much incentive as a deterrent if there's no probability of enforcement," Blankenship said.

Only two of five members of



Juan Montes (right) argues with MolyCorp president David Shoemaker over company efforts to cap tailings ponds.

the environmental improvement board were present at the eight-hour hearing here. Hearing officer William Brancard said the earliest possible decision on the regulation won't take place until the board's next meeting, Sept. 10.

The regulation at issue — "AQCR 512" — would not allow "emissions from molybdenum mine tailings to unreasonably interfere with the public welfare, visibility or the reasonable use of property," and sets a standard that "no visible emissions of fugitive dust ... shall occur in excess of five minutes per hour for one observational hour or 20 minutes per day."

David Shoemaker, president of MolyCorp — the mining company which operates the tailings ponds near Questa that are the target of the proposed regulation — admitted "if not properly controlled, the dust is going to blow." But he said he felt his company was being "singled out" by the regulation.

"We don't see a problem with regulations," Shoemaker said, "so long as they're reasonable and apply to every materials handler in the state ... We're not the only generator of dust in the state."

"Our tailings are not hazardous," Shoemaker said. "It's just as hazardous as this farmer's field right here," he

said, pointing to a photo.

He denied an assertion by a school nurse that dust had been blowing into a nearby school, saying it was "conceivable it may have, but that was many years ago."

"If there's a little bit of dust that blows off the property, it's no problem," he said. "If dust blows into a school or if we're dusting out the community then it's a problem."

Shoemaker said MolyCorp "is absolutely concerned about the health of the citizens of Questa." The fact that MolyCorp has spent \$4 million in "capping" the tailings ponds, he said, was proof of that commitment.

"We don't understand why the state is proposing this regulation when we've taken steps to control" blowing dust, Shoemaker said.

But lawyers for the Questa environmentalists downplayed MolyCorp's "capping" efforts. They presented recent photographs which, they said, refute Shoemaker's assertion that capping efforts were "90 percent complete."

"The time for voluntary compliance is over," Wilfred Rael of Questa said. He suggested the proposed regulation's language be expanded to allow blowing dust for only two minutes per day — not five — and to restrict dust from "all mineral operations" — not just

from molybdenum.

Questa Mayor Lawrence Gallegos gave testimony unanimously approved by the village council that weighed in on behalf of MolyCorp. Gallegos said the proposed regulation is "10 years too late" and that "a diligent effort has been shown from MolyCorp to control the tailings dust from their dams."

MolyCorp's Shoemaker said his company had completed its capping efforts at the tailings site.

"We're in a catch-22 with further reclamation," he said. "It's too wet to get our trucks in there to do more capping, but if

we wait until it dries, it's going to blow."

The environmental improvement board acts as a quasi-judicial arm for the state.

SHHH!

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Andy Katz	Claire Hays	Christine Atias
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In brief

HIV tests rescheduled

The Taos County Health Department has announced that the day for free HIV testing will be changed from Wednesday to Tuesday, beginning Sept. 7. The anonymous, free HIV testing is open to anyone. Since the program began in 1988, 1,352 tests have been performed, of which 15 have come back positive for the virus that leads to AIDS. The testing hours will remain from 1-8 p.m., according to coordinator Amy Bernard. For more information, call the health department at 758-2078.

Arc gets certified

Taos County Arc has received a three-year accreditation through the Commission on Accreditation of Rehabilitation Agencies.

Taos County Arc is in compliance with national standards as they apply to services and programs offered by the organization.

Youth board meets

The Youth Advisory Board of the Taos County Intergovernmental Council will meet at 2 p.m. Sept. 1 at Quality Inn. Youth advisory coordinator Katherine Petrus said a meeting scheduled for Aug. 18 was postponed. For more information about the Youth Advisory Board, call 776-2073.

Foundation to visit

Representatives of the Ford Foundation have announced they will arrive in Taos for a Sept. 8 luncheon discussion with the

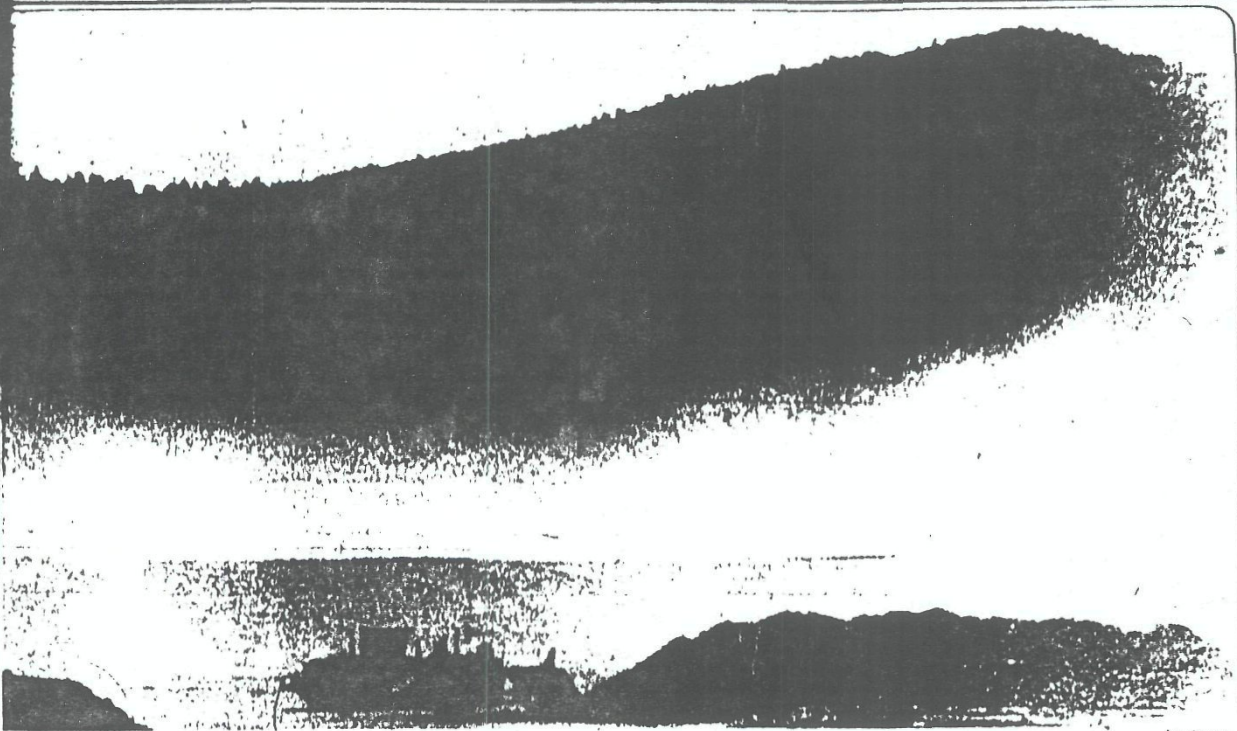
Council. The theme of the luncheon will be: The Challenges of Rural Employment Strategies in Northern New Mexico. The discussion will center on TCEDC's strategies of self-employment and small-business development, as well as the challenges inherent to Taos County's economy as it relates to tourism, cultural diversity and government. After the luncheon, the visitors will tour Taos Pueblo, the TCEDC business incubator and meet with officials from the town.

Bingaman tours clinic

Sen. Joff Bingaman visited Taos Thursday (Aug. 12) to tour the new Indian health center and speak to a lunch gathering of the Taos County Democratic Party. Bingaman said he was impressed by the health center's progress and its promise of additional employment in the

en los valles

FEB 5 '87



Dusty day

Tailings dust whips off MolyCorp's tailings pile east of Questa during Friday's (Jan. 30) high winds. Most of the dust blows northward, toward Cerro. Below, Tony

Espinoza, Questa High School science teacher, used to check the Environmental Improvement Division's air monitor near the school; EID officials took over that chore in May.

February winds whip up tailings

QUESTA—Dust from MolyCorp's tailings pile is most troublesome here during the windy months just started, according to a year-long environmental study.

For years, some local residents have protested air pollution caused by the blowing tailings. But Environmental Improvement Division analyses of air quality have turned up no serious health hazards.

The analysis shows that particulate levels increase here in February, March and April.

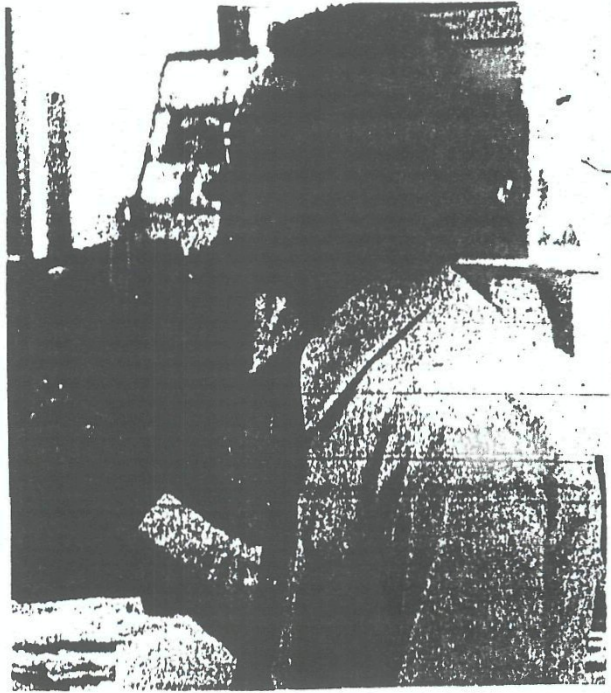
The average particulate level here is less than in Taos.

EID monitors the dust with a mechanism that sits atop a storage building behind

Questa Junior-Senior High School. For 1½ years, Tony Espinoza, the high school's head science teacher, was charged with checking the monitor periodically.

Espinoza said he removed a filter weekly, checked the gauge, then mailed in the data to a private laboratory in Albuquerque. Last May, Gabe Jeantete of the EID's Taos office took over the chores. Jeantete said he's also responsible for checking a monitor atop a storage building in Taos' Kit Carson State Park.

The last report of Questa's air quality came in the 1978 annual report of EID's air quality bureau, which said the particulate matter content of Questa's air was considerably less than Taos'.



De sto

COSTILLA Sheriff's recovered his office machine. Costilla Elem the Taos County Center here.

The items include fire extinguishers, a machine, a projector.

Sheriff A Trujillo said recovered the basement house. He said suspects, but arrested yet.

A warrant

Safe

RED RIVER Ski Area early for work off a would-be

Deputy Emsweller said through a snow-maker a.m.

Police found torch, stolen

Mor

CERRO—Re trying to get Commission promulgated and Agradero.

Last year, way Department oil-and-gravel two miles of Road. The pro state and Taos.

Paving of Agradero—It because of a

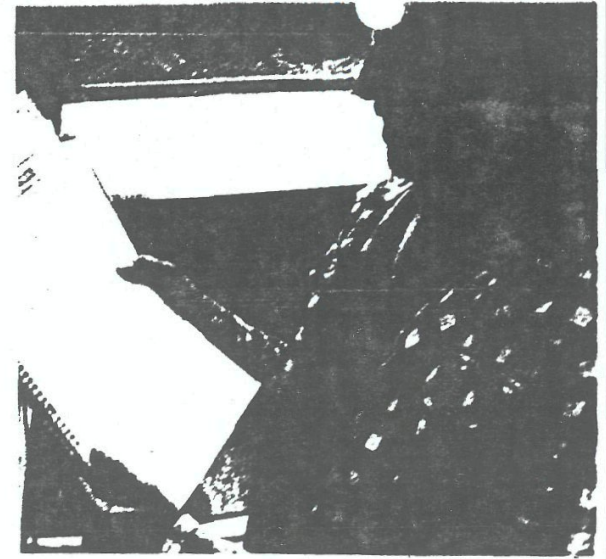
Red

RED RIVER Council will Tuesday (Feb. Items to be a retirement employees collection pro

Town Clerk an Eagle N asked to b

Ad blitz brings Red River skiers

APRIL 16 '81



Dust walkout

Walkout students hear Mrs. Juan Ortiz, left center, challenge Molycorp general manager Robert Sacrison to spend a day at the school. Sacrison, right, agreed to

send a representative to meet with students. Far right, QHS senior Nancy de Herrera reads a statement protesting dust pollution. A State Police car and

bullhorn served as her podium in the confrontation near the new main entrance to the mine on Goat Hill six miles east of Questa.

QHS considers redesign to keep out dust

By STEVE WINSTON

QUESTA—Questa High students say they want to see Molycorp take swift action to control dust from its tailings dump near the school.

Supt. Gilbert Archuleta said Monday (April 13) school officials are studying a plan to adapt school buildings to help keep dust out of the classroom.

Nancy de Herrera, a spokesman for the students, told Moly officials Wednesday (April 8) that the mine dump is "the biggest industrial polluter in Questa."

A confrontation between students and Moly officials climaxed a march Wednesday from QHS to the mine by about 100 students.

Archuleta said a dust storm Tuesday probably led to the walkout. The superintendent said his plans to adapt the building include eliminating windows on the southwest side, for example.

DE HERRERA charged in a prepared statement that dust blowing from the mine dump creates a health hazard at the high school.

She said, "We, the students of Questa High School demand that the problem created by the Moly mine tailings pond be dealt with."

Molycorp officials Robert Sacrison, Cindy Stark, Leroy Apodaca and Lew Thompson heard the complaints where mine security personnel halted the march near the Goat Hill mine en-

De Herrera said dust blown from the tailings site irritates students' eyes, skin and nasal passages.

Sacrison, Moly general manager, told the students, "It's a problem we recognize."

He said dust control equipment bought two years ago had proved inadequate but that it is being replaced with improved equipment bought recently.

Environmental Coordinator Cindy Stark said a surfactant she described as similar to "a mixture of latex and Elmer's glue" had been sprayed on the dump since January.

Ms. Stark said later that the problem could be alleviated but never fully eliminated.

MARCHING students said the dust is a continual problem at the school.

"Yesterday at the school, you couldn't see 100 yards ahead of you," said James Medina, son of school board member Frank Medina. (He was referring to Tuesday, April 7.)

Another parent, Joe Cisneros, said, "I will not send my kids to school under these conditions."

Freshman Beverly Archuleta said, "I'm marching because the dust destroys your eyes."

Students wearing contact lenses suffer both discomfort and damage to their lenses.

Senior Joe Gallegos of Cerro said the dust interferes with athletic practice after school.

Rick Wallence, an adult at the demonstration, said he had moved here from San Antonio to escape pollution.

Sacrison agreed to meet with the students

Monday (April 13), but they later asked that the meeting be postponed so they could study the problem further.

Sacrison asked the students to draw up a list of questions to present to the company's representative at the meeting.

en los valles

Cops quit Questa; sheriff on patrol

QUESTA—Mayor Max Ortega the force for two years including predecessor was Nick Jaramillo said the Village Council here time of the state...

JAN 12 '84



ASKY
CONRADO
SPRINGS, CO.

ra

an sprawl

Local people to move away from
replaced by outlanders who can in-
vade of thousands in condominiums.

hat as property prices rise, absentee
becomes a problem. With owners acting
hited way to maximize profits.

id prices test peoples values, warned
land remain in its natural state, or will
ped for condominiums? It's up to the
s to set guidelines before choices are
ault.

ers generally agreed that Taos is still a
charming town. "Bend-over-
friendly," is how Dorothy Williams of
ings described some Taosenos.

ld there is a lesson to be learned from
old growth: do as much master plan-
ble and "don't wait until the problem
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dan on what you will need, since such
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n, she warned.

executives agreed that what's good for
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for the tourists too.

teachers

ut of engineers.
re New Mexico already tests
to teacher competence. The state or
school districts, however, should
also look hard at some measure
of a teacher's performance in the
classroom.

Given that students take the
CTBS and other exams, we still
need one pegged to the idea that
Johnny's skills should increase
by one year for every year we pay
taxes to keep him school.

Making skills better is going to

forum

She lived there

Editor:

I lived at San Felipe for 1 1/4 years. I have been there when we had bad and good times, and I can tell you that the accusations which were placed against Bob Conte are untrue. (I will swear to that in a court room).

I am now living with a very nice couple. Some of the kids were not so lucky, they were put into

group homes and split up from their families. The people from the state claimed they would not place any of the children in group homes.

I wish to thank you for taking time to read the above article. I ask you to pray for the children of San Felipe Del Rio.

TAMMY WORDEN
San Felipe

Contractor protests

The following letter, to Taos Town Manager Carlos Miranda, was sent to *The Taos News* for publication.

I write this concerning your remarks in the Jan. 5 issue of *The Taos News*, since this is not the first time that you have apparently chosen to give less than an accurate description of 4-D's (contractors) performance. According to the article:

"Because the contractor (4-D) was behind schedule, Miranda explained, and allowed the work to go undone until winter, he now must wait for favorable temperatures in the spring.

"They should have had that (Paseo Pueblo Norte) paved before winter set in," Miranda explained."

You may or may not wish to recall that the schedule to which you refer calls for 1,050 feet of sewer construction to be completed on Paseo del Pueblo Norte in the 82 days between Oct. 1 and Dec. 1, with additional work "as weather permits."

Since you personally are involved in the payment procedure, you have in fact already agreed that nearly twice that amount (specifically 3,040 feet) was installed on Paseo Norte during that period.

I am compelled to point out that we, in fact, did not start this particular run until Oct. 12, in order to avoid disruption of the October Arts Festival, even though, under the contract, we could have started Oct. 1. Further, no work was done during the five-day Thanksgiving holiday weekend, again, out of deference to the needs of the community in which we live and work.

A fairer statement by yourself concerning 4-D's work on Paseo del Pueblo Norte would have disclosed that 4-D Construction Co., Inc. was, in fact, ahead of schedule, not behind schedule as you stated, and has excelled in minimizing the impact upon the local community of a project of this scope.

Concerning your remark that we "allowed the work to go undone until winter," I feel that a fairer remark by you would have pointed out that the contract documents themselves state:

"In order to minimize traffic interruption, the contractor shall make all possible efforts to maximize collection line construction along Paseo del Pueblo during tourist off-season. Tourist off-season occurs in Taos during the months of April and May, and October and November."

...If you ask around, you will no doubt learn that winter came very early this year in Taos, and very harshly. Even so, 4-D had prepared to sufficiently pave all work done on Paseo so as to get through the winter without major potholes and would have done so but for an equipment breakdown on the part of the only functioning asphalt supplier this side of Albuquerque.

By the time the asphalt sub-contractor was again functioning, five days later, weather prohibited any further paving.

...While I do not expect you to give 4-D the keys to the city, I do expect you to give an accurate and fair response to those persons inquiring of the Taos sewer project. Your remarks to date have not done so, and have, in fact, unfairly criticized some of the people for whom you

The Taos News welcomes correspondence to the Forum. Letters must be original, limited to 300 words in length and hand-signed by the author. Your turn columns must be limited to 400 words.

Address your letter to Forum, *The Taos News*, Box U, Taos, N.M. 87571.

stifle the very medium which you review.

Also, in every phase of artistic life, some artists are more accomplished than others. But if you want the quality of artistic life in your community to improve, in general you have to encourage all of the people who are trying.

The arts in Taos receive national recognition. Your paper should be encouraging this sort of recognition to flourish, and encouraging local audiences to support it. Think about it.

MICHAEL SIMON
MARTINA HOLLEUFER
Taos

Moly wreaks havoc

Editor:

The Dec. 22 *The Taos News* story "EID to Digest New Moly Data" raises many issues on the Moly mine's proposed new tailings pond. So many, in fact, that to understand and judge the issue is difficult.

This can be greatly simplified, however, by looking at the effect Moly has had on our air and water.

Anyone who has seen the incredible brown-onts in Questa can see some of the effects tailings dust has on air quality. It has physically caused the disruption and closure of activities at Questa High School.

The water issue is not as visible. As a fishing guide and frequent visitor to the canyons of the Red River and Rio Grande River, I have seen an incredibly productive trout stream, the Red River, virtually destroyed. Seepage, above and below ground, and devastating spills, have scrubbed, poisoned and buried the fish and insect life.

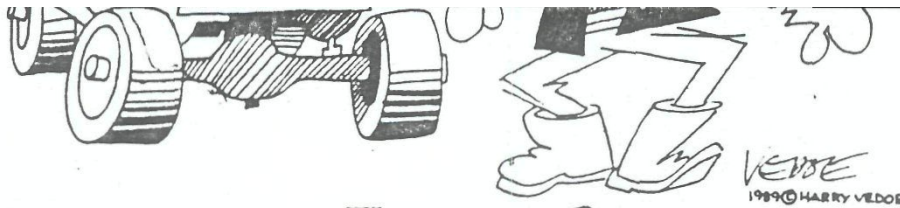
This same condition is now becoming all too apparent in our Rio Grande. Fishing below its confluence with the Red is becoming poorer each year.

How can we expect a better outcome from a much larger tailings site (400 foot high dams) when an almost entirely out of production mine has caused such havoc to our air and water?

The mine creates a number of badly needed jobs and hopefully, with a more responsible attitude toward the environment, will continue to do so. But, let's not forget that our tourist industry was the mainstay of our economy before the mine and will be after the mine has closed.

Provided, that is, that too many of their numbers who came to the Land of Enchantment don't become disenchanted from being forced to drive to the gorge through the tooth-gritting fog of airborne tailings to gaze into the chemical blue depths of our "Wild River."

TAYLOR STREIT
Arroyo Seco



Recycling Taos Style

Money raised by three county school district bond elections, plus a lump of state aid, has been invested at three and a half percent by the county school board ... for a high school at Questa ... an elementary school at Ranchos ... and a three-room addition at Arroyo Seco ...

JAN 24 89

Forum

Support long-term medical care

The following letter, addressed to p. Bill Richardson, was sent to *The Taos News* for publication:

Your letter of Jan. 9 solicits the opinion constituents regarding the Catastrophic re Act and, in response, I offer the following comments.

Of course assistance in the event of catastrophe is important, but it is not nearly as acute a problem as long-term care, which is needed by a much larger percentage of the elderly, and its method of financing adds one more burden to the already overburdened senior population. It is simply a Band-Aid where a tourniquet is needed and, worse than that, a Band-Aid applied to the wrong spot. The legislation's primary purpose has been an attempt to back the move toward some sort of universal medical coverage.

My own situation is fairly typical. I am retired and my principal source of income is Social Security. The increased premium for Medicare and the \$4 per month charge for Catastrophic coverage takes a major bite out of the 4 percent Social Security increase which, even without that deduction, does not reflect the actual rise in cost of living—in my case, more than 12 percent the basics over the previous year.

Further, your statement that the cost of edigap policies should come down" seems to be wishful thinking; my coverage through AARP (Prudential) will go up more than 56 percent in 1989. How about Congressional investigation of the insurance companies?

I suggest that Congress, which so easily embraced free trade with Canada, give serious consideration to importing some of the features of our northern neighbor's health care system, acknowledged by many to be far more superior to our own.

MARY L.R. JOHNSON
Taos

Proud Democrats defend Mike, Skitt

Editor:
This letter is in response to the article "The Big Lie."

My husband and I are proud Democrats and were former residents of Taos, Santa Fe and presently Española. We are partial to Taos because we have family there and keep in touch with them often.

We were surprised at the type and quality of articles being written where Taos politics are concerned. We find it hard to understand what the difference is between Mike Trujillo and other politicians before him. There have been politicians in years past that have hired family, friends and yes, even relatives, for example: Mayor Santistevan, either "technically or outright," and with or without resumé! We understand that *The Taos News* hires without a resumé!

If you look back to the history of politics in Taos or the United States for that matter, you will probably find that we have all been "victims" at one time or another.

The only difference is that Mike Trujillo is new to politics and will have his share of mistakes; he just happens to be related to Frank R. "Skitt" Trujillo who is well-known in the political arena.

We get the impression from your article that Frank is the main objective, and not Mike. Is *The Taos News* hurting for readers that you must stoop so low as to change the color of your paper to yellow?

Frank Trujillo sells papers. Maybe you shouldn't bite the hand that feeds you!

The new commission is probably one of the best that Taos will have in a long time. They deserve the same chance as others before them have had. The people of Taos are intelligent enough to make their own decisions. If they felt that Mike and the other commissioners couldn't do the job, they wouldn't be there now.

JEREMY AND
BEATRICE SANTISTEVAN
Española

Meet no stranger

Editor:

Thanks to Jimmy Gallegos and Joe Aguilar for stopping to put out a fire which had started in some garbage in the back of our pickup.

It is a comfort to know that strangers take an interest in helping out, when they

The Taos News welcomes correspondence to the Forum. Letters must be original, limited to 200 words in length and hand-signed by the author. Your Turn columns must be limited to 350 words.

Please include your phone number. Preference will be given to writers who do not wish to withhold their names. Writers are asked to submit no more than one letter per month.

Address your letter to Forum, *The Taos News*, Box U, Taos, N.M. 87571.

could just drive on by.

BETH GOLDMAN

DIANE FICHTELBERG
Taos

Writer describes tailings dust

Editor:

A few weeks ago a reader asked this column if anyone knew exactly what was in the Moly mine tailings dust. Perhaps this information will be helpful.

In June of 1979, a sample of tailings dust was sent to the EPA for analysis. The material was sieved through a 250 micron screen and tested. It was found to contain 164 micrograms per gram of lead, 163 mcg/Gm of zinc, 98 mcg/Gm of copper, 0.4 mcg/Gm of beryllium, 0.57 mcg/Gm of cadmium (mixed sample), 10.8 mcg/Gm of arsenic and a trace of mercury.

As a respiratory therapist I have visited several oxygen patients in the Questa area and have noticed that oxygen machine filters in those homes adjacent to the tailings pond were always clogged with a very fine powder. The fine particles are of the size that might be inhaled into the lung and stay there, i.e. they would not be filtered out in the nose. Anyone exercising when the wind is blowing the dust about would be at an increased risk of inhaling significant quantities of this material because we usually breathe through our mouth during heavy exercise, as might be exhibited by schoolchildren on the playground. The long-term health effects of this are open to speculation, but we know that asbestos workers had a lag time of 20 years or more before their problems were evident.

CHRIS KNOX
Embudo

Editor:

I am writing to express my deep disappointment in *The Taos News* for refusing to consider the Concerned Citizens of Questa's press conference important enough to attend. Also it seems that the person writing the article for your paper was more interested in inflaming the public, exacerbating tension between citizens with differing opinions and believing Molycorp's PR than presenting a good piece of journalism.

Did this writer even attend the Questa meeting? Because if the Questa mayor's arrogant and disrespectful remark was the only quote he or she thought pertinent from that meeting, then reporting has hit a new low. Totally absent from the article was the fact that the folks who spoke against the proposed tailings pond site were both Hispanic and Anglo and were not against development per se but were vitally interested in the health and well-being of all Questenos. Over two hours of detailed health and environmental testimony was provided by the many members of the Concerned Citizens of Questa—a coalition of local citizens from Questa, Cerro, Latir and La Lama. To dismiss the hours and hours of research of this group of folks interested in the long-term health and welfare of Taos County as the work of "outsiders" is not only disre-

spectful but also inaccurate.

The real outsider here is the Molycorp company itself, owned by Unocal with headquarters in California. They don't have to live with a dead Red River, the spills of highly toxic water into acequias, the lead-contaminated wells or the blowing dust that will ultimately force the Questa High School to close. And Molycorp is constantly changing its position about when it will open, leading people to believe that unless the Guadalupe site is approved, Molycorp cannot resume operations. This, of course, creates a great deal of tension between differing factions in the community when the real issue about whether the mine will open or not has to do with the international market and the price of molybdenum.

This issue is crucial to Taos County and it is complex. The draft environmental impact statement (EIS) was poorly done and Molycorp and the Bureau of Land Management know it and were suprised at the organization and astuteness of the tailing pond opponents. The people of Taos County deserve a similar degree of astuteness from the reporter(s) who cover this issue for the only local paper most of Taos County residents read.

CATHY HOPE
San Cristobal

Cerro wants to save mountain

Editor:

A copy of the following letter, addressed to Robert Dale, Bureau of Land Management, Albuquerque, was sent to *The Taos News* for publication.

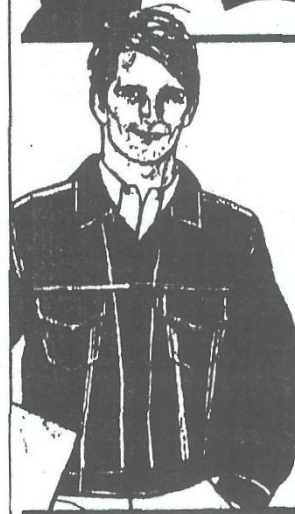
Regarding Molycorp's proposal for a waste dump in the Guadalupe Mountains, it is my firm belief that the petition submitted in favor of the waste dump is very inaccurate and is not endorsed by a lot of people from the community of Cerro. Before that petition is considered by the Bureau of Land Management, consideration should be given to the man who organized the petition, Mr. Gilbert Segura of Cerro.

When the issue arose of an airport being constructed in Cerro, in the vicinity of Mr.

aspects concerning the impact that Molycorp's dump would bring to the Guadalupe Mountains and our community of Cerro.

Enclosed is a petition that I, Joe Vigil, submit on behalf of the people of the community of Cerro, N.M. These people live right here, Mr. Dale, these are not people who would come to work at Molycorp from 50 to 100 miles away and can care less what happens to the Guadalupe Mountains. This constitutes more than half of the community's households. Their voice must be heard, too.

These, Mr. Dale, are the true natives of Cerro. The silent ones, afraid to voice their concerns, afraid of the monster (Molycorp) over the mountains. Silently they



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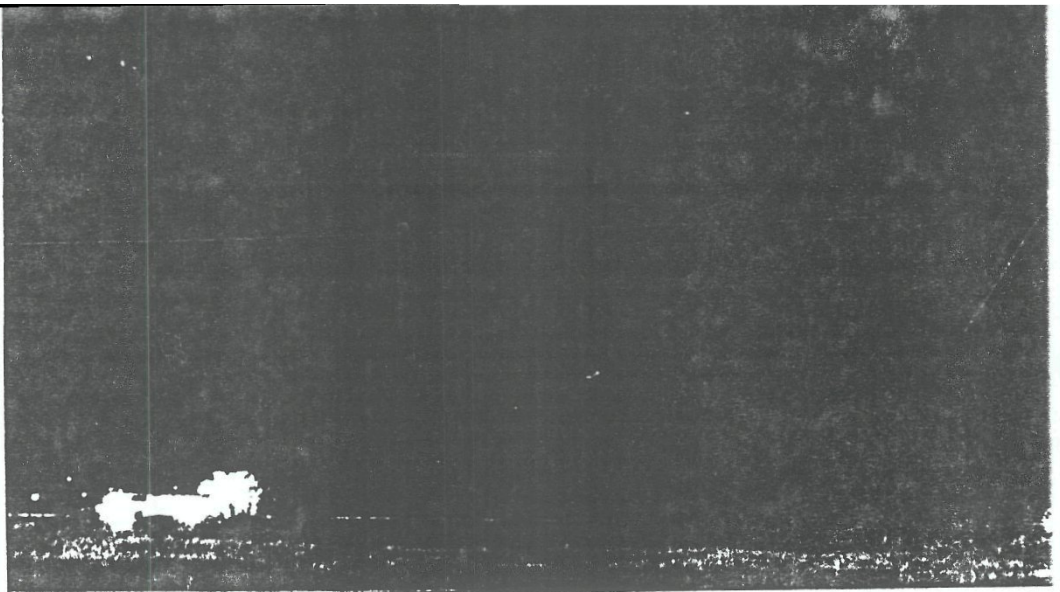
submit written comments on the airport to the council, but the council will not consider them.

The Coalition for an Environmental Impact Statement claims that the 1986 environmental assessment did not adequately address the environmental affects of the expansion. The assessment found "no significant environmental impact."

"The council meeting agenda is the prerogative of the mayor and the council," Cordova said. "For this issue, the public participation input from citizens took place in 1987, and when the final public hearing was held in August 1987, the process was over."

Cordova said that "at some point," a decision has to be made.

"The airport project is now in the design stage," Cordova said, "not the public comment stage. The design should be finished by March or April, 1991. The bids will go out shortly thereafter."



Always turning

Proof that the world is constantly rotating is evident in this 30-minute time exposure of the night sky above Taos Mountain from Las Colonias. The track from a

blinking satellite is visible in the lower right hand of the photo. Cold clear nights and a wan moon made for excellent star gazing in Northern New

Mine blamed for polluted groundwater

By Julie Mullen
Staff Writer

Carlos and Gloria Herrera are suing Molycorp and its parent company, Union Oil Company of California, in Taos County District Court claiming a poisonous brew from the mine company's Questa tailings ponds has ruined their water, spoiled their land and harmed their health.

The Herreras live a quarter-mile south of the Molycorp tailings ponds and claim their groundwater is contaminated by effluent from the ponds. Fred Waltz, the Herreras' attorney, filed the complaint against Molycorp Dec. 5, alleging personal injury and property damage.

Groundwater south of the tailings pond is contaminated, according to Stuart Castle of the state Environmental Improvement Division (EID) in Santa Fe, but Molycorp, Inc., has not been cited or fined, Castle said.

"There have been no penalties so far," he said, "but it is always a possibility. Penalties are a matter of last resort."

Castle said the EID has asked Molycorp to assess the extent of the contamination with the agency's guidance. "Then we need to get it cleaned up," he said. "The first step is to negotiate with the company."

Molycorp is liable for contamination, Castle said, even though the tailings pond effectively unregulated by laws that protect groundwater. The tailings ponds and related contamination existed prior to



Molycorp mine manager Dave Shoemaker at the tailings ponds Bryan Welch

1977 when pertinent regulations went into effect.

"The facility didn't have to submit an application," he said. "There is no groundwater discharge plan on the tailings pond."

The pending decision on the groundwater discharge plan for Molycorp's proposed Guadalupe Mountain tailings site will not be affected by the Herrera suit, Castle said.

"The outcome of the suit is not of particular interest to the EID. The Guadalupe site requires a permit before installation and will be done in a different fashion (than the existing tailings ponds), if at all."

The Herreras claim their well water has become undrinkable, for humans or live-

stock, and that effluent comes to the surface through springs and flows across their property, ruining the soil itself.

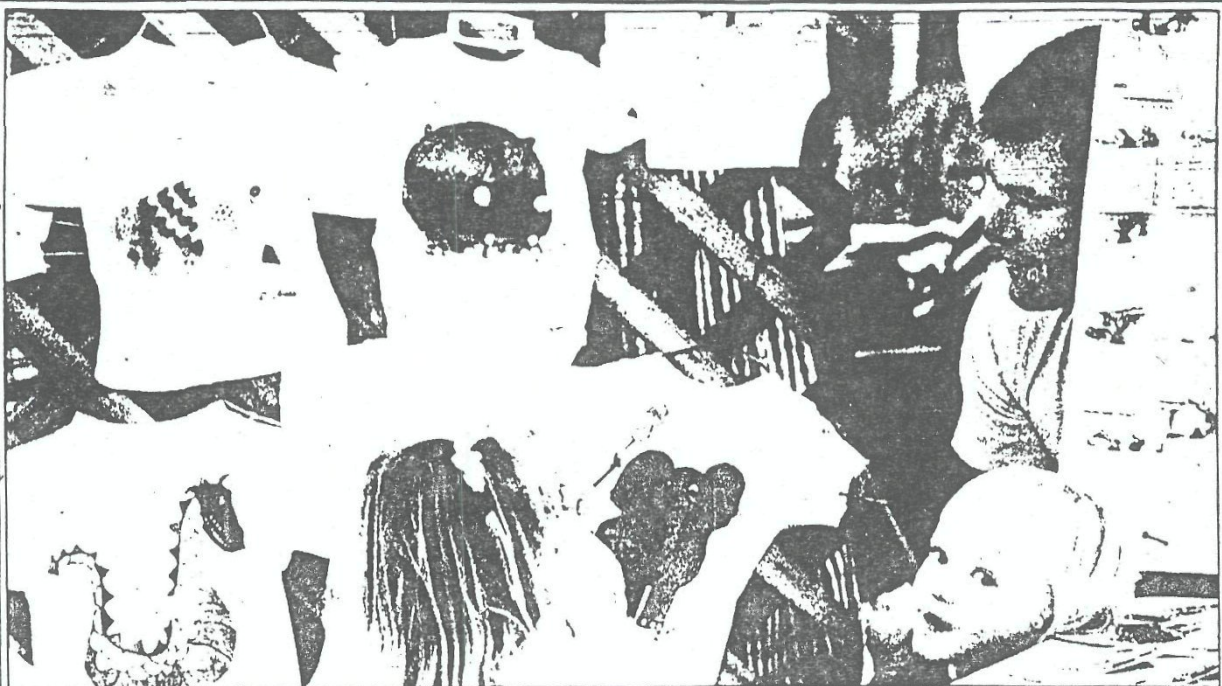
Gloria Herrera also claims the water has made her sick. She has suffered "severe abdominal pains, vomiting and great physical and emotional distress," according to the lawsuit.

The lawsuit states the groundwater under the Herreras' property contains "greater total dissolved solids and sulfates in excess of New Mexico water quality standards."

Castle confirmed that contention but said the water is unpalatable but not toxic.

"Although," he said, "I suppose in suffi-

Please see MINE, Page A-2



Little shoppers

John Hanron

Scores of arts and crafts booths filled two rooms of the Taos Civic Plaza Saturday (Dec. 8) as the town's Yuletide Festival continued. Here, Ayla Shipley of Gallina Canyon wisely makes her Christmas choices in front of her dad, Brett Ship-

ley, as Robin Marquis of Embudo finds other distractions. As everyone was out and about for the Yuletide season, vendors at the fair said that most people were just looking and selling was rather slow.

MINE

Continued from Page A-1

cient quantities, anything can make you sick."

It is commonly known that too many sulfates can make a person sick, according to Ken McCallum, environmental supervisor for the EID in Taos, causing diarrhea and discomfort.

The suit claims that Leroy Apodaca,

administrative services manager at MolyCorp, Inc., told the Herreras on Feb. 24, 1988, that their groundwater was bad and would cause diarrhea. Apodaca returned on March 14, 1988, according to the suit, and told them that their groundwater was safe to drink.

Both Apodaca and Dave Shoemaker, mine manager, were out of town and

unavailable for comment at press time. According to Ellen Morton, Shoemaker's secretary, they are not yet aware of the lawsuit.

Gene Dewey, president of MolyCorp, Inc., said through his secretary at Union Oil Company's Los Angeles offices that he knows nothing about the lawsuit and referred questions to MolyCorp administrators in Questa.

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By Lisa Dreier
Correspondent

Rep. Bill Richardson can draw a crowd.

Taos County residents packed the Town Council Chambers on Civic Plaza Drive for a special meeting with Richardson to discuss the proposed Rio Grande del Norte National Conservation Area (NCA) Saturday (April 13).

The proposed conservation area

could place 600,000 acres, mostly in Taos County, under new federal protection and could bring millions of dollars per year in new federal funding to protect the area.

"I know there are strong feelings," Richardson told the crowd of about 130. "This is a time not to hold back. Give me your concerns."

Richardson said after he knows his constituents' wishes, he hopes to introduce a bill to Congress proposing

the creation of the conservation area within the next month.

A 14-member citizens' committee presented Richardson with a proposal for an NCA with a \$12.3 million budget on March 6. The designation would provide more money for managing the river corridor and would bring new regulations to protect natural resources and educate visitors about Northern New Mexican culture.

"This is a chance we have to honor

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Dust Questa may ask Unocal to move school

By John Hanron
Staff Writer

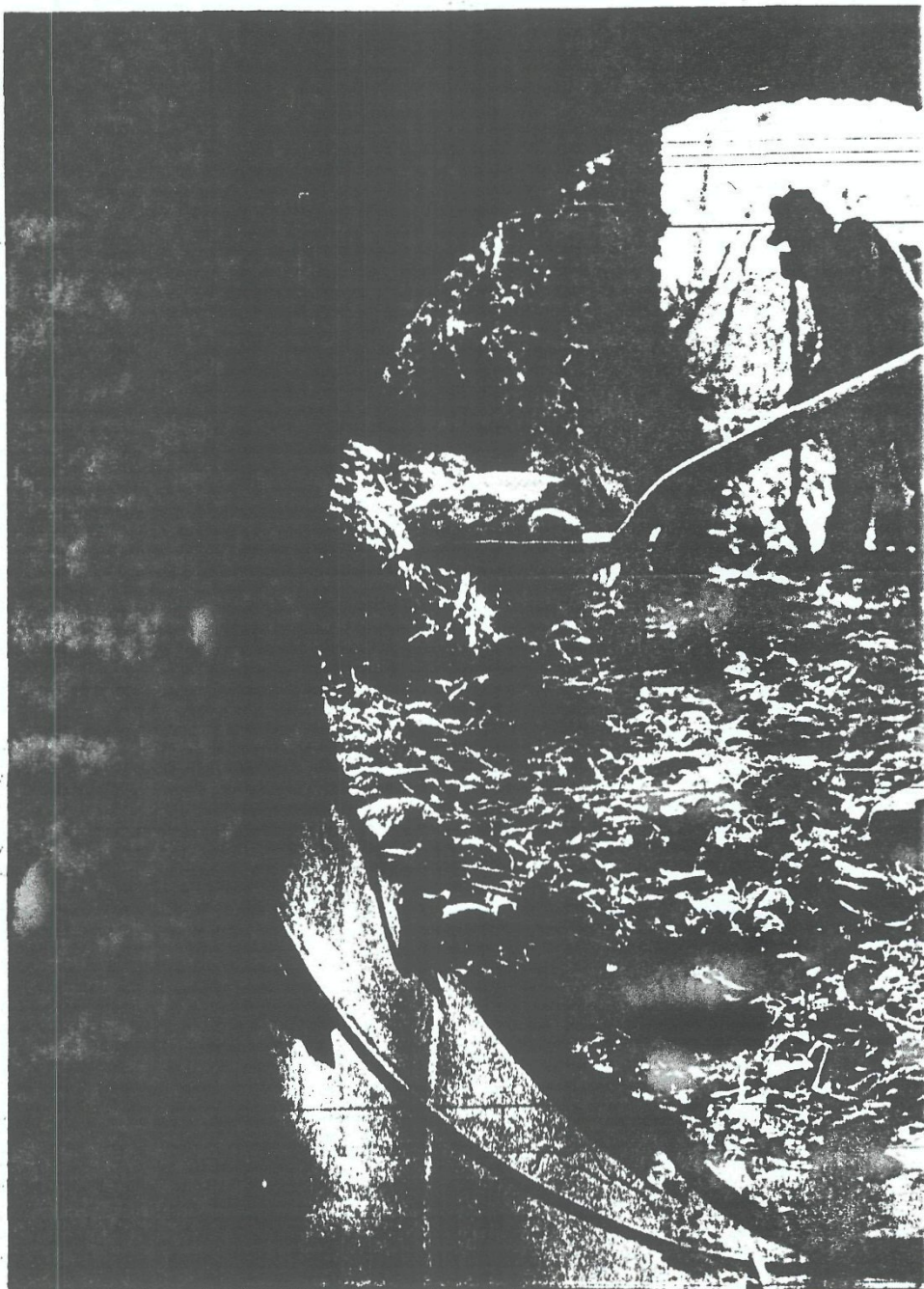
The Questa School Board is considering asking Molycorp's parent company, Union Oil Company of California (Unocal) to pay for moving the middle school away from the dust cloud blowing off the mine's tailings disposal ponds west of Questa.

The proposal came a day after Questa schools closed an hour early when high winds April 10 whipped clouds of tailings dust up, enshrouding the school less than a mile downwind.

District superintendent John Romero said his intention was to ask the Unocal Foundation, the philanthropic arm of Union Oil, to buy a new site and build a new middle school away from the persistent dust cloud.

"I'm talking about going to a foundation that has the capacity to move towns," he told the board. "If we can show them that we have some issues here, maybe they could relocate us."

High school principal Steve Archuleta, who was acting administrator April 10, made the call to send the students home when the winds shifted from



View from the ditch

Scores of local workers grabbed their shovels and jumped into the ditch for the annual cleaning of La Acequia Madre del Rio Chiquito and La Acequia del Monte del Rio Chiquito in Taos Saturday (April 13).

Here, Henry Valerio's shovel hauls a of rock at the entrance to a culvert. Ditch associations throughout Mexico have been cleaning out it

Please see DUST, Page A-2

Mistrial blamed

DUST

Continued from Page A-1

the south to the southwest.

He said it was the first time that he was aware of that the schools were ever dismissed early because of the dust. In the early 1980s, former superintendent Gilbert Archuleta put his principals on alert several times because of the possibility of early dismissals because of dust. At that time, the current middle school was Questa High School.

MolyCorp mine manager David Shoemaker said the situation April 10 was unique because a section of pipe that normally helps keep the tailings wet was disconnected for repairs, so a larger area of tailings than normal dried out and became airborne in the powerful gusts of wind.

"They got caught off guard with that line being down," he said. "It was five in the afternoon before they got it working again."

Shoemaker pointed out that wind and dust were bad all over the state that day.

MolyCorp has consistently stated that the tailings dust is simply a nuisance, and that there is no evidence linking the tailings to health hazards.

School board member Danny Pacheco brushed aside concerns of possible

health hazards and suggested the board stick to its priority — education.

"They play out in that dust, I played out in that dust and I think everyone in this room played out in that dust," he told a room full of concerned residents at the board meeting. "Forget about the tailings. This should be handled completely outside the school district."

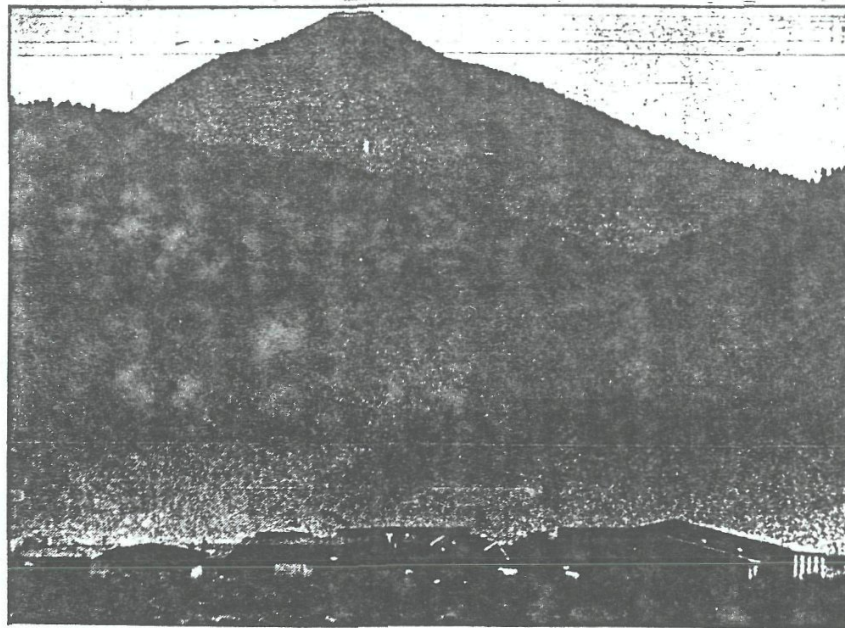
His comments brought groans from some of those present at the meeting.

"Only an idiot would let their kid go out and breathe all kinds of things," said Leroy Rael, a member of the environmental group, the Concerned Citizens of Questa. "In 20 or 30 years, who's going to pay the medical bills?"

Air Quality Bureau chief Cecilia Williams said the state Environmental Improvement Division does not make determinations about health risks of airborne particulates. EID environmentalist Juan Ortega of the Taos office collects samples every six days from a monitor at the middle school that accumulates airborne particles smaller than 10 microns, a size that would be small enough to lodge in the lungs. A micron is one one-thousandth of a millimeter.

"We're not going to say that there are no risks, because we don't know," Williams said. Data on current air quality will not be available for about six months.

Romero presented the board Thursday (April 11) with an \$8,830 cost estimate for a complete land audit of



John Hanron

The Questa Middle School sits downwind from MolyCorp's tailings ponds.

the middle school site that would help the Unocal Foundation find a new home for the school.

"It's like being between the Hatfields and McCoys. We're caught between two factions," Romero said. "Every time something like this occurs we become

the focal point of a controversy. We don't need that."

Unocal last week announced plans to sell MolyCorp, the subsidiary which owns the Questa mine, before the end of the year.

CONGRESSMAN

Continued from Page A-1

convert some private land to federal ownership.

Mining limitations would not affect the mines now operating in the area or the

"significant mining activity" within the Rio Grande NCA, "much to the chagrin of many members of the committee," said committee-member Geoff Webb of the State Land Office.

Norman Harvey, a represen-

poses limitation of future mining claims, but conceded such limitations likely would not have a significant impact on jobs in Taos County.

"Private lands will not be affected," said Bureau of Land

easier for Taos County residents to use her agency's lands. Plus, the conservation area would, she said, provide money to preserve historical uses and educate the public about Northern New Mexican

conservation area. He said the Questa schools were closed for half a day last week due to MolyCorp mine tailings blowing in the high winds.

John Himes, a Taos busi-



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Parking Laws Tightened

Hereafter, violators of the Town of Taos's parking ordinance will be subject to fines of up to \$200 or 15 days in jail.

The Taos Town Council adopted a new ordinance this week which makes over-parking, double-parking, and parking outside marked spaces illegal and providing a means for enforcement. Similar actions were illegal in the past, but there was no provision for forcing payment for violations.

The "basic" fine for over-parking is 50 cents if paid within five days of the violation. A \$1 fine will be levied for improper parking in metered spaces, and \$2 for blocking (double-parking) cars at metered spaces.

The ordinance provides that a person receiving a parking ticket may have a hearing before the municipal judge within the five-day grace period. However, failure to pay the fine or ask such a hearing within the five days or failure to appear for a requested hearing, will result in the issuance of a bench warrant for the arrest of the violator.

Warrants, the ordinance states, "shall" be issued by the municipal judge upon petition by the town clerk, who keeps records on meter violations. The municipal judge, upon conviction of the violator, may assess a fine of from \$5 to \$200 or order a 15-day maximum jail sentence, plus the original amount of the fine.

The council took the action after The Taos News publicized records showing that the town had lost thousands of dollars in fine revenues because it had no means of enforcing payment.

The council mentioned this Monday night, and also noted that over-parking tickets during February were written at the rate of nearly 30 per day.

Mayor Jesse Vigil also reported to the council that work has been delayed on the Guadalupe Plaza municipal parking lot because of the weather; he said it was almost impossible to dig holes for meters in the frozen ground, and estimated that the lot should be ready in "two or three weeks" once work begins.

Mill Line Breaks, Muck Covers Land

By SANDRA KINCAID

A tailings line from the Molybdenum Corporation of America (MCA) mill above Questa, apparently under high

pressure, sometime Saturday, and spewed a great quantity of clay-like material into an irrigation ditch and yards and gar-

Although the line was repaired Monday, snow runoff from the warm weather still was carrying the material through the yards of many families living on the mountain side about one-half mile south of Questa.

Fred Jaramillo, whose home is near a concrete catch-bin apparently designed to catch some of the tailings in case of a break, said the flow came within three feet of his water well.

Jaramillo said he dammed the flow with a blade to keep

More photos, Page 2

it from contaminating his water supply and then called John Petty, vice president and superintendent of the mine, to tell him of the damage.

According to Jaramillo, Petty told him to figure the cost of the damages and the mining corporation would settle with him.

Another resident of the area, Manuel Romero, mentioned the mine's offer to make a settlement but said the only settlement he was interested in was a permanent solution to the problem.

Romero, whose yard and garden were flowing with runoff and tailings, said he felt getting the mess cleared up was more important than money.

Romero, talking with neighbors Mrs. Annie Archuleta and Lester Lang, said that they might hold a meeting with other neighbors to see if the problem can be worked out.

A small lake which has been stocked with fish by its owner, A. J. Hunt, appeared to have collected a considerable amount of tailings. A stream running into the lake was carrying the mining debris into it.

Around the mine's catch-bin, a concrete structure which apparently catches some of the tailings and settles it, the ground was covered with six to eight inches of packed tailings. The material is like a mixture of plaster and clay. When it dries, it does not set as hard as cement but does harden to a degree.

At a meeting in Santa Fe between mill, Fish and Game Department and other state officials concerning the pollution of the Red River and its effect on the Red River Fish Hatchery, Petty said the game department would notify the hatchery when there was any spillage. Petty said the hatchery was not notified of the spillage. Petty said the hatchery was not notified of the spillage.



MURKY TAILINGS—After a Molybdenum Mine tailings line broke into an irrigation ditch sometime Saturday, Lester Lang, about 80, tried to keep the stuff out of his yard. The irrigation ditch carried the thick, plaster-like muck from the broken line into yards, gardens and within three feet of one man's well by Monday afternoon. The dirt road behind Lang was flooded with tailings as were the yards beyond the fence.



DISMAYED—Mrs. Annie Archuleta, a life-long resident of the mountain area near Questa, looked over the tailings that flowed from a broken main into the irrigation ditch and into her yard. She said Monday that she doesn't know if she will be able to grow a vegetable garden this spring, and shook her head in dismay. (Taos News Photo)

Busy Months Ahead For Taos Scouters

Taos District Boy Scouts have planned a busy March with a winter sports carnival, court of honor, and an exposition at Espanola.

The sports carnival, set for Saturday at 10:30 a.m., will be held east of Sippau Ski Area, just off Highway 3 in the camping area south of Rio Pueblo. Signs will be posted to show directions, scout leaders said.

New shoes and other equipment will be provided for Scout patrol and individual races.

Troop 98, sponsored by the Lion Club, will hold a uniform inspection, court of honor, and a March 15 at 7 p.m.

Scouters and the troop leaders will officiate. All scouts will be given a certificate of participation.

The court of honor will be held at the Espanola Hotel. The exposition will be held at the Espanola Hotel.

Explorers and Cubs will demonstrate and exhibit their crafts, hobbies and merit badge subjects.

The public is invited to the show. Admission is free to anyone under 18; adult tickets can be bought from Cubs, Scouts and Explorers for 50 cents.

The ticket money will be split 50-50 between Taos and Espanola units to help defray expenses.

Troop 98 has made a bid for space at the Council Aquatic Camp at Conchas Lake from June 12 to 18.

Scout leaders said that expert instruction in swimming, rescue, first aid, life guarding and boating will be offered as well as craft skills, archery, and merit badge credits for water sports who are qualified swimmers.

The exposition will be held at the Espanola Hotel. The exposition will be held at the Espanola Hotel.

County Called On Pollution

County pollution problems highlighted the agenda of the Taos County Commissioners at their regular monthly meeting Monday.

Commissioners promised Carl Berghofer, State Fish and Game Department officer, that they would request the County Health Department to make a thorough check of several county waters and report to them within the month.

Berghofer pointed out that because of the polluted fishing waters, the county will lose "a lot of money through fishing licenses."

Another visitor concerned with pollution was Alfonso Tejada, Ranchitos, who said he represented the livestock growers in the area. Tejada pointed out that about 700 acres of grazing land in the vicinity of the Taos Sewer Plant is now wasteland, although the property owners are being taxed a higher rate because of the availability of water.

He said the pollution is so bad that it is a detriment to both the livestock and the pastures. Commissioners advised him to talk to the Town Council about the problem but said they would help "any way" they are able.

Other action taken by the commissioners:

—Approved a resolution to furnish a backhoe operator, oil and gas to help the Community Action Program with the Ranchos de Taos community room at the request of Paul Vigil.

—Approved a proposal from A. J. Garner, Forest service ranger from Tres Piedras, to establish a rural fire district. Garner showed commissioners a plan which listed names of Tres Piedras who would be on the fire district.

Garner said the fire district would repair and maintain the fire equipment.

Cordova and Teodoro Torres. —Approved \$40 for culverts for Arroyo Seco after a request by Fermin Torres and Jose E. Romero.

—Reduced the assessment of improvements on property belonging to Elberto Sanchez, Rodarte.

—Hired Ralph Trujillo as a housekeeper.

—Approved giving \$150 the recreation fund to Mer-

nor Sigmund Charewicz summer and fall program.

—Heard a complaint from Sam Armijo, Tres Piedras, of the peace, once his liquor license. Armijo said he had spent over \$12,000 he can account for but not accomplished anything far, in connection with a test against the transfer of other Tres Piedras liquor license.

—Promised to either Dunn's Bridge at Arroyo or build a new one if not cost too much.

—Okayed \$180 from a donation fund to the Taos J.

(See County on Page 2)

Municipal Project to

Approval of a \$5 Municipal Head-Sta-

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Pollution By Taos

'Worse Than Mill'

Ground-Breaking July 16

A firm date and a detailed program for ground-breaking ceremonies marking the start of construction of the Taos Municipal Airport have been announced by the Taos Airport Commission.

Ground-breaking ceremonies will be at 2 p.m. on Saturday, July 16, at the airport site northwest of Taos on State Road 111.

Because of a conflict (the state Democratic Party Platform Convention in Albuquerque), Gov. Jack M. Campbell will be unable to attend. However, Bob White, state aviation director, has consented to be the guest speaker at the short ceremony, and to turn the first shovel-ful of earth at the site.

Invitations will be sent to representatives of all organizations in Taos County, it was announced, but the general public is welcome to attend.

Phil Lovato, Airport Commission chairman, will be master of ceremonies.

The commission noted that a major celebration will be held when the construction project is completed. It was estimated that the July 16 ceremony will last about 30 minutes.

State Official Raps Town Sewage Plant As Greater Danger

The Town of Taos, not the Molybdenum Corporation of America, has created the most serious water-pollution problem in the region, says a State Health Department official. The official's comment came when he was contacted about the most recent tailings line breaks at the mineral processing mill in Red River Canyon.

John Fair, head of the Liquid Waste Division of the State Dept. of Health, said pollution from human habitations is far greater in consequence than the small amounts of industrial contamination from a health point of view.

Fair said he was not condoning the industrial pollution, but intended to point out that if Taos is concerned with contamination, it should consider correcting the operation of its own sewer plant.

He made the comments Tuesday during questioning by The Taos News concerning four tailings line breaks which occurred July 4.

Calling the discharge of tailings into the river more of a recreation hazard than a health hazard, Fair said it will be a few days before water samples taken from the area are analyzed.

He reported that the most recent analysis made of the slurry, on June 13, showed .09 parts per million (ppm) of cyanide. He said this was a high amount and "we don't like it," but added that it still does not constitute a hazard to human welfare.

On the average, said Fair, the analysis from the slurry (the entrance to the tailings pond) reads about .015.

"Under certain conditions, it could present some hazard to sensitive stream life, such as the insects fish feed on, but even this is subject to question," he explained.

"We (the State Public Health Dept.) are trying to maintain the waters of the Red River in as clean a condition as possible, and are well able to cope with any serious situation if it develops," he said.

In addition, he pointed out that the department maintains monitoring stations and can determine in a matter of hours the concentration of poison, if necessary, and recommend any number of solutions, such as chlorination.

Taking a swat at the town of Taos sewer treatment plant, which pours semi-treated sewage into Taos Creek, Fair called it "the most serious pollution problem I have seen in that part of the county."

Fair also pointed to the town of Red River as a source of human contamination. Both Red River and Taos are presumably working on solutions to their contamination problems.

Fair concluded that he has seen aquatic life "living and thriving in the present Molybdenum tailings pond."

Governor 'Warns' Molycorp

A sharply worded telegram from Gov. Jack Campbell has warned the Molybdenum Corp. of America plant at Red River that stream pollution and disruption of campers cannot be tolerated.

Campbell sent the telegram to warn the mine operators following four tailings-line breaks during the early hours on July 1 and 4. Although State Fish Hatchery Foreman Artie Grant said he had not observed any killed fish, two groups of campers were alerted at 3 a.m. Monday when the abrasive waste material flooded their grounds.

Grant said that some of the campers got "tailings in their bedrolls" but that he awakened others before the tailings came that close. He said the silt-like materials was several inches deep at one campsite near the Goat Hill campground.

John Petty, vice president of the mining firm, said the tailings line trouble was due to the abrasive material wearing through the 10-inch lines that carry the waste eight miles down the canyon. Petty said the silt, carried in water through the line into a tailings pond, travels downhill at a six per cent grade in some places.

Grant, who said he investigated all four breaks, said two of the breaks occurred at line couplings.

Petty explained that heavy-duty pipe to replace the worn tailings line is on order. To forestall breaks until the line can be replaced with the heavier pipe, Petty said his firm will turn the pipes to prevent them from wearing thin on the bottom. He said the pipes wear out most frequently where the grade is steepest.

An Associated Press report Tuesday said that the engineering firm which built the line, Western-Knapp Co. of San Francisco, was expected to arrive Tuesday to study the line and make recommendations.

The statement said that the engineering firm had estimated the pipeline would last for five years; however, it has been in use only six months.

A company spokesman explained that a man patrols the length of the pipeline every 30 minutes. The patrol is in radio contact with the mine switchboard.

Several sportsmen's clubs have protested the line breaks and expressed concern about the purity of the water as well as the effects of the tailings on aquatic and fish life.

Monday, United Press International reported that Gery Austin, executive secretary of the New Mexico Wildlife and Conservation Assn. would try to obtain strong anti-pollution legislation "in the light of more pipeline breaks at the Molybdenum plant."

The sportsmen of New Mexico will have to rally as a first line of defense in the growing pollution problem in the state. Austin was quoted as saying "pollution office-seekers" who day.

Tour, Not Probe, Director Says

State Economic Opportunity Director Frank McGuire said Tuesday that although Sen. Clinton Anderson has requested visits to several representative OEO programs, there will be no investigations or probes, as some newspapers have reported.

McGuire said that although the Senator will tour five or six program sites soon, it will not be an investigation.

He said that Sen. Joe Montoya also requested information from him concerning some of the programs.

Both Anderson and Montoya were quoted as having expressed criticism of the poverty programs in the state by a Santa Fe paper Sunday. According to the article, Senator Anderson had said he intended to look into the situation as much as possible.

Senator Montoya was quoted as having attacked the Head Start Project in the state as "riddled with nepotism, where school officials and other sponsoring agencies allegedly have hired relatives in violation of OEO regulations."

McGuire confirmed this reference to the Penasco School District, where local Community Action officials have taken issue with the school board and superintendent because a number of their relatives were hired to work with the Head Start program there.

"We suggested the school board clearly define the relationship between the board, the superintendent and the employees," said McGuire. The problem was then referred to the OEO regional office in Austin, Tex., which issued an opinion, but McGuire said he had not received a copy on Tuesday.

McGuire added that the board's attorney, Eljio Romero, "assured me that the school board will comply with all of OEO's regulations," and said he considers the problem as resolved through local actions.

Boy Dead, Man Held

Isias E. Martinez, La Cordillera, 24, Saturday was arraigned on charges of manslaughter after the car which he was driving struck and killed Johnny Paul Garcia, 13, of Ranchos de Taos Friday night. Martinez is being held in lieu of \$3,000 cash bond.

The accident occurred about 5:55 p.m. on Friday about a quarter-mile east of Ranchos de Taos on State Road 3 near Talpa.

According to police, Garcia was riding his bicycle in a northerly direction along the side of the highway when he was struck by the Martinez car which was traveling in the same direction. The boy was carried 185 feet down the road after the initial impact and was dead on arrival at a local hospital.

According to police, Martinez was carrying two other passengers in his car. They were not injured.

The inquest held in the boy's death, presided over by Justice of the Peace Filemon Sanchez, ruled that Garcia died of multiple injuries.

(See BOY, Page 2)

Project Head Start reached a look at the project, in page 8 today.

(Taos News Photo)

Links

performance of Mrs. Dominguez. Mrs. Fresquez stated that she felt that Mrs. Dominguez was "giving very good service and was very satisfied with her work and would like to stay as cook."

Gonzalez further stated that Mrs. Leyba was not being re-hired because she had taken ad Start training, and he felt that she was well qualified to serve as a teacher aide. He also stated that he felt that if someone else without training were hired, the children would greatly suffer.

The motion carried by four to one.

Marcelino Romero, Taos official, school board was that it had stated that exceptions made to the Austin the discretion of the he delegate agency. agency in Penasco of board.

bal said that during g there was "a big on the incorrect in the paper has been NASCO, Page 2)

as on Fourth of July

Taos Chamber of Commerce and the Taos Kiwanis Club.

Winning first prize in the senior Representing Red River Grocery, Pam Burt, Fort Worth, Tex., took third prize.

Winning first prize as the best-dressed senior cowgirl was the Randall County queen, not identified. Elaine Vargas of Red River took second place representing White Horse Stables.

The head of the Randall County Sheriff's posse took first place for the best dressed senior cowboy.

Talking prizes for the best floats were River View, Inn and Green Mountain Lodge with first place. The float from the Red

River Ski Area took second place, while a float from Lewis Ranch took third.

The Red River Hillbillies took first prize for their novelty float, and Golden Eagle Lodge had the best-decorated jeep. A float entitled "Red River or Bust" from Lubbock, Tex., took first prize for the float representing the farthest point from Red River.

Calhoun stated that even though there were no bands in the parade, it was an exciting and colorful event.

Prize winners were recognized at the Red River Community House at 6 p.m. on July 4, and the busy day was concluded with square dancing.

Platform Meet

All members of the State Platform Committee are invited to a meeting at 10 a.m. in the Albuquerque Hilton Hotel Saturday, Matias Chacon, chairman announced.

Any interested persons are also welcome, said Chacon.

Council to Meet

The Taos Town Council will hold its regular monthly meeting in the town office at 7:30 p.m. Monday.

The meeting, scheduled for the first Monday each month, was postponed by the mayor because of the July Fourth holiday.

PHS Nurse Building

immunization clinics and to promote such things as medical teaching clinics. Mrs. Lleurance said that Mrs. Dyer plans to publish regular reports on home visits and child care clinics to inform the people in the area as to the work of the Public Health office.

Dr. Marian Hotopp, district health officer, has received a grant from the U. S. Public Health Service for building maintenance programs. Funds from this grant would be used to maintain the office donated to house Mrs. Dyer, if she finds an office in Questa.

If an office is found, the program in Questa will be conducted by a doctor from Santa Fe, a public health nurse, a project manager and a nutritionist.

In order for definite plans to be made, the public health office needs to be assured of an office. All cooperation in Questa will be appreciated, according to Mrs. Lleurance.

PROPOSED

(Continued From Page One)

County CAP or of the Board of Directors of any of the delegate agencies, with the exception that the staff-director of a delegate agency may serve as a voting member of the Taos County CAP Advisory Council.

(b) Near relatives (husband, wife, son, daughter, mother, father, sister, brother, son-in-law, daughter-in-law, father-in-law, sister-in-law, and brother-in-law) of the Executive Director of the Taos County CAP, of the Chairman of the Advisory Council Staff, Directors of the delegate agencies, or Chairman of the Board of Directors of the delegate agencies. Also, no near relative may hold any position where there is an authority or responsibility relationship between them to order or to recommend personnel actions.



GENE LUSK, Democratic candidate for governor, Mrs. J. Benito Vigil, Mrs. Pollito E. Martinez and Fabian Chavez, Democratic candidate for lieutenant

governor, are pictured at the well-attended tea given by the Democratic Women at Indian Hills, Saturday afternoon. (Taos News Photo)

No Fatalities, Just Hectic Weekend

Three traffic accidents were reported by State Police in Taos County over the hectic Fourth of July week-end.

None of the accidents involved fatalities or serious injuries, according to police.

Investigating officer, Abel Rodriguez, reported that Tony Martinez, Questa, was involved in a one-car accident near Red River on Friday. Martinez failed to negotiate a curve and his car over-turned. There were no injuries reported.

Laurencio Padilla, Rancho de Taos, driving near the junction of State Road 3 and highway 111, failed to negotiate a curve and overturned on the roadside. Padilla sustained minor injuries.

A hit and run accident, involving Alfredo Trujillo, Canon, occurred on Monday evening. Trujillo struck a car driven by Juan Vigil, Santa Fe, and then attempted to leave the scene of the accident by entering into the west bound lane, passing Vigil. In the process of passing Trujillo's car forced a car driven by

Rebecca Baca off the road into the ditch. Trujillo then left the scene.

Trujillo was apprehended by State Police officers Abel Rodriguez and T. A. Drennan later. Mrs. Baca and the four children riding in the car were not injured.

Trujillo was cited for leaving the scene of an accident and for careless driving.

BOY

(Continued From Page One)

ple injuries resulting from an automobile accident.

Orlando Garcia, uncle of the boy, was his legal guardian. The fatality brings this year's count to 11 for Taos County. This is one more than was killed in the county at the same time last year.

The last county fatality also involved a boy struck while riding a bicycle. That accident occurred in Canon and resulted in the death of Abel D. Espinoza, 15, of Canon.

'ManMade Fire' Burns Acreage

Forest Service officials said Tuesday that a man-made fire near U.S. Hill in the Penasco area burned two or three acres on the Fourth of July.

A Forest Service spokesman stated that investigations were being conducted and that "they had a pretty good idea who caused the fire."

Regular rangers from Taos were dispatched to fight the fire, and it was under control before it had caused major damage.

Around & About

Mrs. Agnes Avila and her granddaughter, Loretta Ann Avila, have returned from a three-week vacation at Las Vegas, Nev., where they visited Mrs. Avila's daughter-in-law, Mrs. Pete Avila and family, and attended the graduation of Keith Avila, the Taoseno's grandson, in a class of 760. Mrs. Pete Avila will move to Albuquerque late this month, with Keith planning to enter the University of New Mexico in the fall.

GOVERNOR

(Continued From Page One)

have been using the Department of Development as a whipping boy recently could better represent the interest of the people by putting a stop to industry turning our rivers into sewers. Certainly the sportsmen want to bring in more industry, but not at the expense of the health of any part of the ecological community," Austin stated.

In the telegram to Petty, Campbell said:

"You have informed us that for some time you have had underway a complete review of the design and construction of your tailings lines with the view of reinforcing and stabilizing them. Please inform us immediately as to the status of the review and what steps you are taking immediately to correct the situation."

The State Finance Board appropriated special funds for a study of water pollution in New Mexico's major streams last month.

Not Don Just Co

While the state literally the July Fourth just smoked.

George Torres at Forest weath. of high of 91 and 4th from his we his home in Ra.

Tuesday, Torr ing, but said he about the same, higher.

Four other Ne recorded temper degrees Monday high mark with had 103, Carlsbac ing, 101.

No precipitation in Taos County ed showers were Western mounta

PENAS

(Continued From publishing." Th was "gotten fr people."

The school board officially, that it Ralph Rivera, CA cooperate with t stands up in meet: that he has "no with the board," the statement at a held on June 14

J. R. Romero for a complete in all anti-poverty pr ing with the Taos office and staff an Education Livelib to investigate why have not received from the program was promised."

was seconded by was decided that t tions will be carri Board and by offic tatives of higher c

Marcellino Rom against the measur he "did not feel t as other board m According to Marde

HELP official, Ro that he felt it wic ness of the school vestigate other age

No comments we from Rivera, who Pat Trujillo, River said that the CAP on the action taken nico school board recting the Head S in Questa.

Mrs. Roybal-sta school board also n they be sent a copy lation which requir boards to publish t their meetings in l pers. The regulat on page 19 of "Po and Limitations

ULAR PRICES

10¢

10¢

Each

19¢

Now that the

'Twas A Twinkling Christmas In Taos

Christmas in the Taos shines night of hundreds of homes and homes.

ns, prompted in annual Christmas carried out by the Cooperative, Taos Chamber of traditional dur- is season in the particularly the

oe A. Medina, was winner of in the residen- test. Medina's ed with a min- tos on the roof in the residen- duded Albino pond and \$25; eandro Lopez

Sr., Penasco, third and \$15; and Dail Bachtel, Theodora Street, and Mick E. Ortega, Questa, both fourth place and \$10 winners.

Tailings Line Does No Damage

QUESTA — Department of water was cut off at the hatch- Game and Fish officials report- ery.

ed that there was no damage to the fish in the Red River Fish Hatchery as a result of a break in a tailings line from the Moly- bdenum Corporation of America plant near here last week.

The game department said that although tailings ran into the river from a break in a pipe- coupling for about two hours, none of the effluent ran into M. Campbell recently demanded that the line be improved to pre- vent future breaks. Molycorp has been carrying out line im- provedments for some time.

The first-place winner in the contest for places of business and public buildings was Our Lady of Guadalupe Church, decorated with hundreds of faroli-

tos. Second-place prize and \$25 was won by the Lilac Shop, Placita Road; third was the Country Store, on Taos Plaza, \$15; and fourth, for \$10, were First Northern Savings and Loan Assn., and Topsy Cleaners.

Mrs. Mabel M. Kuykendall, chairman of the Chamber's arts committee, said "three or four times" the number of residences entered in the contest were found to be decorated. She said some of the homes not in com- petition were decorated as elab- orately as those entered.

Entrants in the lighting con- test have increased yearly. Mrs. Kuykendall said. This year there were twice as many contestants as there were three years ago, the first year of the contest.

Judging the entries were Mrs. Verne Sackett, Elmer LaCome and Ben Harker, who were up-

past midnight on Dec. 20 trying to decide on winners. Entries were judged on the use of tra- ditional lighting, greenery, color and design, originality, and ex- pression of the Christmas spirit.

Kit Carson Co-Op donated a total of \$200 in prize money for the contest. Two \$10 fourth prizes were donated by Radio Station KKIT.

Entered in the residential lighting contest were Albert Cas- tillo, Leathermah; Bachtel; Coca; George Frank, South Santa Fe; Mr. and Mrs. John L. Gonzales, Los Pamos; Bud Howell, Upper Ranchitos; Adol- fo Martinez, Canon; Conrad Martinez, Placitas; Tomas P. Martinez, Ranchos de Taos; Me- dina; Mrs. E. P. Randall, Santa Fe Road; Ginger Rivgill, Placita; Mrs. Arsenio Romo Jr., Lower Ranchitos; John B. San-

chez, Liebert; Rose Tollardo, Place La Loma; Adolph Trujillo, Los Cordovas; Mary L. Trujillo, Country Roberts; Annabel Velarde; Mr. and Mrs. Lippa; and Ortega. First

Cattle Found

Seven cattle were found shot ly Dec. to death in an abandoned cel- lar near Tres Piedras early ner, Ar- last week, according to Julian er. U. Archuleta, brand inspector. respons Archuleta said that apparently attempt the cattle had been transported itself b- to the site alive and shot be- brush. fore being dumped into the cel- Archu- lar. He said there are no sus- brand c- does no- pects in the case. is. He s-

The cattle had been dead were at- about a week when found ear- lers bec-

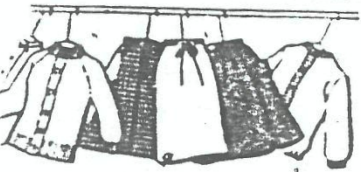
IN TAOS, N. MEX.

USE YOUR
CHARGE CARD

Only after Christmas can you get values like these. Fabulous closeout prices all through the plus brand new, special purchases at exciting savings. Come early! Bring your Penny Charge

Penney's
S FIRST QUALITY

Year-End BARGAIN DAYS



WOMEN:

- 100% Nylon — Seamless Reg. \$2.35 NOW \$1.79
- Scarves Solid & Print Reg. 1.99 NOW 50c
- Gloves Reg. \$1.25 NOW \$1 M.D.
- High Socks Reg. 69c NOW 50c
- Pants 100% Nylon Reg. \$2.99 NOW \$1.44
- Year Cotton Plannel Gown & Peignee, Reg. \$2.98, Now \$3 M.D.
- Year Cotton Plannel Gown & Peignee, Reg. \$2.98, Now 2 M.D.
- Long Sleeve, Pique-Print Reg. \$2.98 NOW \$3.11
- Bathy Kaly Reg. \$9.98 NOW \$6.79
- Full Fashioned — Turbanc & Cardigan, Reg. \$5.98 \$4.88 M.D.
- Full Fashioned, Matching Pyjama, Reg. \$3.98 NOW \$2.88 M.D.
- Pants Solids & Prints Reg. \$7.98 NOW \$4.79
- Wool Pants Reg. \$3.98 NOW \$3.58 M.D.
- Knit Tops Orice & Wool Reg. \$4.98 NOW \$3.58 M.D.
- Foot Field & Print Reg. \$9.98 NOW \$6.79
- Foot Field & Print Reg. \$6.98 NOW \$4.79
- Pants Set Reg. \$9.98 NOW \$8 M.D.

FOR INFANTS

- Over-Sleepers \$3.50 Reg. \$4.98, Now
- Pram Bags \$4 Reg. \$4.98 Now
- Knitted Sleepers \$1.99 Reg. \$2.49, Now M.D.
- 2-Pc. Snowsuit \$8.88 Reg. \$10.98, Now
- Polo Shirts Short Sleeve 2 for \$1

FOR THE HOME

- Scatter Rugs 22"x42" \$3



FOR MEN:

- Underwear 2 Pk. Insulated Reg. \$12.98 NOW \$8.88
- Jacket Insulated Only Reg. \$7.98 NOW \$4.88
- Winter Caps Reg. \$1.98 NOW \$1.58 M.D.
- Shirts Cotton Plannel Reg. \$3.98 NOW \$3.00 M.D.
- Shirts Cotton Plannel Reg. \$2.98 NOW \$1.79 M.D.
- Sport Shirts Wool Reg. \$5.88 NOW \$4.44 M.D.
- Sport Shirts Brushed Rayon Reg. \$5.88 NOW \$3.00
- Long Coats Corduroy Reg. \$19.88 NOW \$16.88 M.D.
- Winter Jacket Leather/Kaly Sleeve Reg. \$19.98, Now 16.88 M.D.
- Winter Jacket "Animal Look" Reg. 17.98, Now \$13 M.D.
- Winter Jacket Seede Shell, Pile Lining, Reg. \$17.98 \$13 M.D.
- Winter Jacket An'y. Fields Reg. \$19.88, Now \$16.88 M.D.
- Winter Jacket Split Cordide Pile Lining, \$25.00 \$29.88 M.D.
- Winter Jacket Nylon Ski Style Reg. \$13.88, Now \$10 M.D.
- Dress Gloves Fur Lined Reg. \$4. NOW \$3.00 M.D.
- Dress Gloves Wool Lined Reg. \$3 NOW \$2.44 M.D.
- Thermal Tops, Drawers Reg. \$7.88

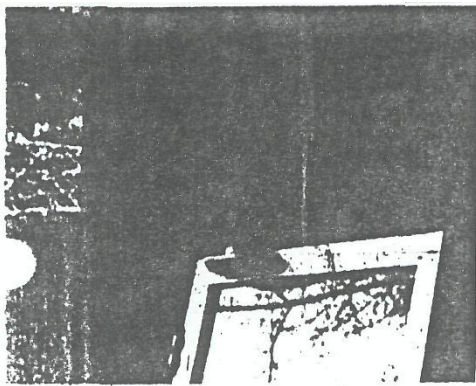
Entire
Town
reduce

REG. 49.95 ANI

REG. 59.95 ANI



APRIL 24 '75



Gary Stribling, manager of Mountain Bell the first street number in Taos history at the headquarters at "109 Armory Street" now boast the new program.

(Staff Photo by Paul Merz)

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and Bill k the Town r's share of ent \$12,000 for most of he request ext regular

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arrival at assengers, Ortiz, 20, tiple frac- transferred Fe, where idition. os County nth after than two y Lou. ehicle, all were ured.

Chamber's accomplishment of the past year, said he believes "has fully justified its use of the money," and that in his opinion the expenditure "has returned manyfold to the community."

The directors met Monday, April 21, at La Dona Luz.

The only change adopted in the proposed budget was a stipulation that a \$2,400 item as a "reserve for salary review contingency" and for part-time help, did not necessarily mean that the Chamber's two full-time employees automatically would receive pay increases.

Harrison reported that 15,000 of the Chamber's new four-color process promotion brochures are scheduled for delivery by week's end, and that distribution will commence immediately.

Provision was made in the new budget for an addition \$30,000 brochures at a reduced cost in the next fiscal year. The initial 15,000 will be paid for out of the current budget.

In other actions, the board received a report from Arthur Ortiz, heading the goals and objectives committee. The report was broad in nature, indicating a desire to improve the economic situation of the entire county.

There was unanimous agreement that "input" on goals should be solicited from segments of the county other than the business community, in hopes of reaching a greater degree of unanimity.

Weekend Weather

A slight cooling trend is predicted for Taos this weekend by the National Weather Service. Variable amounts of cloudiness are predicted with moderate windiness in the afternoons. High's should be in the upper 50's or low 60's with low's in mid 20's.

Taos had no measurable precipitation last week. The high temperature for the week was 84 degrees April 16, and the low was 17 degrees April 19.

Other residents, including several teachers, are asking why the bleachers are not being bought with money raised from the recent bond issue — and what happened to the money raised by student fund drives for the bleachers.

"They should give them back if they don't want to use them," said famed artist Dorothy Brett, whose painting, "Twelve Moons of Troy" is listed for sale.

"It's a bit of an outrage when you give a painting and then they throw it in a basement," added the artist. Another of her paintings, "Airplanes," is now in storage in the school administration building's basement.

"To build bleachers?" she said. "You mean benches? Why don't they build their

around Taos also requests that a standing committee of artists and other tax-payers be appointed to supervise the care, protection, preservation, and use of the collection in the future."

An inventory compiled by the school administration lists about 100 works of art whose whereabouts are known, and about 40 more believed "missing."

Gallery owner Rena Rosequist said that a work by Stroh, titled "Orchestra," and on the "missing" list, was seen by her a week ago in the Ranchos Elementary School.

Dixie Yaples, director of the Millicent Rogers Museum, also expressed concern, saying that she had encouraged two of Millicent Rogers' heirs — sons Arturo and

Yaples, and of The school either the auction — necessary for

Earlier prop the bleachers the bond issue extent on fund high school stu

A bond issue by the voters three-to-one m announced re \$400,000 wort denominations opened on May

The school \$800,000 in be projects for w new vocation Taos High Sch Elementary, Elementary, a

When the bo capacity limit this year and agreed that th the cafeteria c issue's money.

The cost of been estimate Orlando Qrt architect's pr vocational b

State sues Molycorp for reporting failure

Suit has been brought against, the Molybdenum Corporation of America on behalf of the State of New Mexico for alleged violations of state water quality control regulations.

The mining corporation near Questa is said to have allowed mine tailings to pollute the Red River on three occasions, and to have given late notification of the pollution.

The allegation of violations of Water Quality Control Commission Regulations 2-201 and 1-203 was filed Monday by the Commission and its constituent agency, the Environmental Improvement Agency on behalf of the State of New Mexico.

Spillage is said to have occurred July 6, 1974, Jan. 31, 1975, and April 9, 1975, polluting the Red River. The Jan. 31 discharge allegedly also defiled the Goathill Campground "located adjacent to the Red River."

The investigating agency, the EIA, charges that "each of the Defendant corporation's discharges . . . were of such nature and quantity as to injure or be detrimental to human health, animal or plant life or property, or unreasonably interfere with the public welfare or the use of property, and that upon notice or knowledge of each discharge, the Defendant corporation did not immediately notify the Chief Water Quality Division, Environmental Improvement Agency, of the nature, amount and location of the discharge."

In addition to the \$1,000 fine for each discharge, the suit asks the court to "require the Defendant corporation to pay the cost of cleaning up the waters polluted" and to "permanently enjoin the Defendant" and associates "from further permitting, causing, suffering or allowing wastewater containing mine tailings to enter the Red River, the Rio Grande, or any of their tributaries."

Any further water quality violations will be fined \$10,000 for contempt of court, if the suit is successful.

"Irreparable harm, damage and injury will follow and be done to the citizens of the State of New Mexico unless the conduct of the Defendant above complained of is permanently enjoined," the suit reads.

Gene Dewey, General Manager of Moly Corp., agreed that the spillages did occur, discharged from breaks in the 32 miles of pipeline used to transport the waste "trailings" from the mine to a "trailing pond."

"We did have the breaks they men-

tioned. It's a question of whether they were or were not reported as is required by law," he said, declining to comment further on this aspect of the case.

"We should wait and see what happens in court," he explained.

Museum sign sm

An 18-year-old Taos man and a juvenile have been arrested for assault, disorderly conduct, and resisting arrest after an incident in which their auto allegedly demolished a telephone pole and a sign pointing to the Millicent Rogers Museum on U.S. 64 north of Taos.

The arrest, which involved a brief melee with a Taos police officer and a New Mexico state policeman, occurred early Friday morning, according to police reports.

Officer Ben Tafuya of the Taos Police Department said he was patrolling on South Santa Fe Road when he noticed two vehicles "backed up against each other and appearing to be loading items from one car trunk to another" in the Jack Denver Cafe parking lot.

Tafuya, noticing extensive damage to the front end of a vehicle belonging to the juvenile, said he was "insulted" by the youth, who refused to show him driver's license or other identification, and was then allegedly attacked personally by Robert G. Romo, 18, of Taos.

State Policeman Johnny Cordova, arriving to assist Tafuya in arresting the pair, identified the damaged vehicle as having been involved in an accident earlier the same evening as they approached U.S. 64 from the Rio Grande Gorge Bridge, failed to negotiate a curve, and struck the telephone pole and sign. The telephone pole, said Cordova, has since been replaced.

Tafuya said they "threatened the lives of the officers" during the arrest and he charged the driver and the juvenile with assault, disorderly conduct and resisting arrest.

The driver, who has since been turned over to juvenile authorities, was additionally charged by state police with careless driving.

A court date for Romo was tentatively scheduled later this week, according to the state policeman.

SHAMBLE was all t directional Rogers Mu week after automobile

VETERANS DAY—Celebrating the traditional "Veterans Day" on Tuesday morning — the 11th hour of the 11th day of the 11th month — were these veterans, most of whom remember service in World War I when the original Armistice Day was

celebrated. From left, they are Andres A. Torres, Avenazio Romero, John Vigil, Jacob Bernal, J. Felix Santistevan, Luciano Garcia and Juan D. Gonzales.

(Staff Photo)

president of the Hispano Chamber of Commerce and chairman of the awards committee.

A third Outstanding Businessowners Award was made to Daniel J. Ojo Caliente, owner of Ojo Caliente Cooperative.

Taos County businessowners who have been voted Outstanding for 1975 in Taos County are: Martinez of the Spa; Chris Mondragon of Seasons School Supplies; Rudy V. Rancho Builders; Vargas of Casas Nativas; attorney Romero, and Eugene Questa.

The awards will be presented by Alex Armendaris, director of the Office of Minor Enterprise (OME) banquet concluding conference, scheduled for the Four Seasons Inn in Albuquerque.

Conference registrants will be invited to a banquet and a reception featuring actress Page. Further details will be obtained from the office of Muller, conference chairperson, at the Economic Development Association, 2040 NW in Albuquerque.

The most outstanding businessowner award was given to said Lovato, will be presented to Albuquerque dealer Julian Garcia. Mrs. Avelino G. Albuquerque are

Molycorp's earnings rise in quarter

District Judge John B. Wright has struck down charges by the Environmental Improvement Agency (EIA) that Molycorp failed to report within a required period of time waste spillages into Red River.

Judge Wright held that rules and regulations promulgated by the EIA are not enforceable under provisions of the state's Abatement of Water Pollution Act.

The judge, speaking in the Eighth Judicial District Court in Taos, expressed the hope that the state agency would appeal the decision to a higher court in order that the intent of the pollution statutes will be clarified.

Molycorp was charged with not immediately notifying the EIA of accidental spills into the river on July 6, 1974, Jan. 31, 1975, and April 9, 1975. The second discharge allegedly also polluted Goathill Campground three miles east of Questa.

The state, represented by EIA attorney Charles Griego, was asking a penalty of \$1,000 for each violation of State Water Quality Control Commission Regulations 2-201 and 1-203.

Regulation 2-201 prohibits the discharge of refuse into a natural watercourse. The other deals with notification of pollution to the Water Quality Control Commission.

Griego said the EIA was informed of an 11-hour break occurring on July 6 in the Molycorp pipelines.

The next word they had of spillage, he said, was on April 9 when the Game and Fish Department reported dead fish in the area.

Molycorp general manager Gene Dewey admitted in an affidavit that leaks did occur from accidental breaks in the 32 miles of pipeline which carry mine waste to a tailing pond.

He said, however, that he met

with EIA officials April 15 and reached an oral agreement on reporting line leaks, and the company has subsequently complied with those guidelines.

The agreement was incorporated into the MMolycorp Preventive Maintenance and Surveillance Plan and Contingency Action and Reporting Plan, he said, and a revised copy submitted to the EIA in June.

Attorney Lewis Campbell, arguing for the defense, claimed that the EIA must first seek voluntary compliance to their regulations before initiating court action.

In fact, he said, six days after the meeting between Dewey and EIA officials the environment agency brought suit. At this time, he claimed, Molycorp was already making an attempt to meet with regulations.

Campbell said there have been no leaks since April 15 which have not been reported. He introduced an affidavit from John R. Wright, chief of the New Mexico Water Quality Control Division of the EIA stating that Molycorp has been adhering to regulations since the agreement was reached.

Griego argued that though the agency must first seek voluntary compliance, if an environmental regulation has already been violated, the EIA has the right to seek court remedy.

"A company could get off Scott free by admitting violations and promising not to do it again," he said.

Molycorp was also objecting to answering interrogatories brought by the EIA about types of pipelines, connections, valves and joints. Campbell argued that massive changes in the lines in 1965 and '66 make the questions almost impossible to answer.

DA weighs charges in boy's death

The district attorney's office in Santa Fe is considering whether charges will be filed against E. M. Griego, 79, of Trinidad, Colo., whose car allegedly struck and killed a six-year-old Embudo boy last week on S.R. near his home.

State Police in Espanola said David Sanchez, son of Mr. and Mrs. Augustine Sanchez of Embudo, had alighted Thursday afternoon from a school bus stopped in the northbound lane and was crossing the highway when struck by the Griego vehicle.

The report said the youth's body was thrown 150 feet by the impact, and that the Griego vehicle collided with the school bus after the impact. The investigating officer, Rudy Acosta, said the school bus warning equipment was in operation at the time of the tragedy.

Obituaries

SANCHEZ, David — 6 years old, died at Holy Cross Hospital Nov. 6th. He was the son of Mr. and Mrs. Augustin Sanchez from Embudo. Rosary was held Thursday 8:30 p.m. at the Dixon St. Anthony Parish. Funeral Mass was Friday 2 p.m. at St. Anthony Parish in Dixon and interment followed at the Embudo local cemetery. Survived by his parents and Grandparents, and also by two sisters, Karen, 5 years, and Cristella, 4 years. Casket Bearers: Billy Rosencede, Tom, and Frank Sanchez, Paul and Julian Lopez. Eulogy: Vidal Martinez Garcia. Funeral Home in charge of arrangements.

THOSE WE have cared about leave treasures behind that

time can never take away. **JOHN I. GONZALES** left his family a most meaningful treasure — his friendships. We, his family, wish to thank those who offered prayers during his hospitalization. After his death, our sorrowful burden has been lightened through the efforts of those who were John's friends. We wish to express our gratitude to all those relatives and friends who showed their concern through their kind words, thoughts, prayers, and actions. In a time of sorrow it can be consoling to reflect on how our lives have been enriched by the love we have given and the love we have received.

The John I. Gonzales Family

EL PATIO

Will be Closed on Monday,

November 3, 1975

and will Re-open

November 21, 1975

Trout death news said 'exaggerated'

By PHIL BATEMAN

News accounts of an extensive trout "kill" at the Red River Hatchery were incorrect, according to Jim Standifer, foreman at the hatchery.

Earlier reports of a loss of half the rainbow trout due to a tailings spill from the MolyCorp tailings line into the Red River were exaggerated, Standifer said.

The hatchery foreman said the loss of 2,350 trout at the hatchery represented only about one per cent of the trout population at the hatchery.

The break in the tailings line occurred between 4 a.m. and 6:15 a.m. Tuesday morning about one quarter mile east of the Goat Hill Campground on the Red River, according to Gus Cordova local Environmental Improvement Agency (EIA) representative.

Standifer said that he was informed of the break soon after it occurred and shut off the inflow of water from the Red River into the hatchery.

According to Standifer, the shut-off was necessary to keep contaminants from entering the hatchery.

Standifer said the trout suffocated due to a lack of oxygen from the reduced flow of water rather than because of a direct inflow of the tailings.

The tailings do not poison the fish, according to Game and Fish officials, but clog the gills and cause suffocation.

Standifer said there was no way to determine how many fish in the river near the break were killed, but he thought the figure would probably be "minimal."

Standifer said that it was his understanding that MolyCorp would pay for the loss of the trout at the hatchery. The trout cost about \$1.25 per pound and officials estimate over 900 pounds of fish were killed.

Cordova said that water samples from the Red River submitted to the Scientific Lab in Albuquerque by the EIA last week would be tested and the results should be known in 7 to 10 days.

"We're checking for concentrations of molybdenum, zinc, arsenic and all heavy metals," Cordova said.

"We're concerned with the possibility of fish kills, since most of the spill will go into the Rio Grande."

According to Cordova, the break in the line was repaired by 9:30 a.m. Tuesday, but he was not satisfied with the replacement of the pipe.

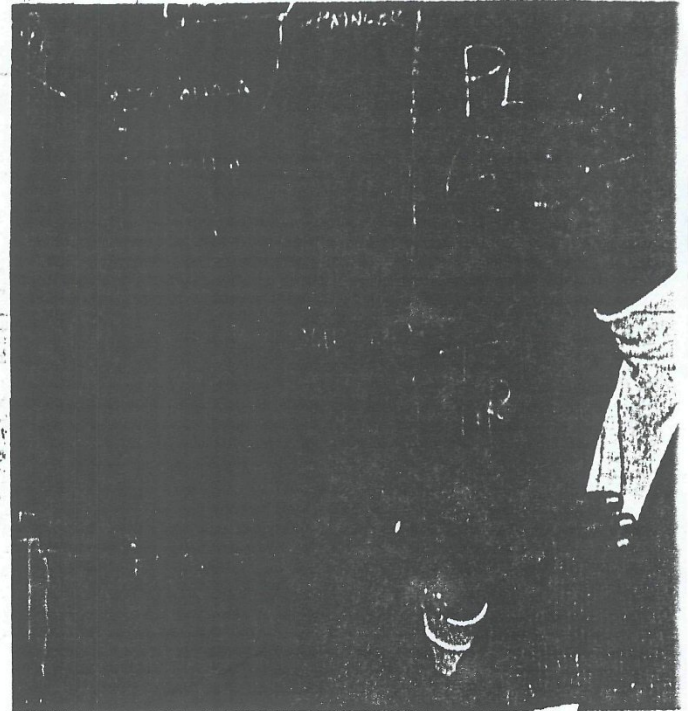
"They replaced it with a rusty, old pipe," Cordova said. "They should have replaced it with a new one."

Bob Sacrison, General Manager of the mine located near Questa, said that the break occurred in a 10 inch pipe that was due to be replaced in the near future.

"We're in the process of changing five miles of the lines and replacing them with heavier 12 inch pipe," Sacrison said.

According to Sacrison, the duration of the spill was about one hour and there will probably be some effects of the spill in the river bottom until the spring run-off.

The pipes carry tailings from the milling operation in the mine to a tailings pond located about nine miles from the mine.



POWER BRIEFING—Mike Fletcher, Plains Thursday (March 10) Electric Cooperative representative, ex-voltage transmissi plains a point during a public meeting Caliente and Taos.

Proposed line concerns

Pillar residents, concerned with the possible routing of a high voltage electrical transmission line through their village, made up the majority of the meeting with Plains Electric and Kilt Carson Cooperative representatives Thursday (March 10).

Residents were concerned with the possible environmental damage and safety hazards presented by the construction of the line.

Questions were raised at the meeting concerning visual impact of the line, right of way easements, loss of land values due to the crossing of farm and residential property and the possibility of harmful emissions produced by the 345kv line.

According to Mike Fletcher, right of way agent for Plains, construction damage would be minimal as a transmission line does not require clear cutting as would a highway or pipeline.

Fletcher said that the line can be very well hidden, and visibility of the line is one of the areas being studied. "Plains will restore the land to its original condition as nearly as possible," Fletcher said.

Art Morales, project manager, said that high voltage emissions could prove harmful if there was exposure over a long period of time, and noted that electric companies are prohibited from placing lines near residences or

where prolonged exposure. Fletcher said that Plains Electric, a regional agency, of the line as "needed."

Plains Electric General Cooperative Inc., head provides wholesale electric including Kilt Carson.

Plains has contracted sciences and engineering study an area of approximately of Taos to determine possible.

The proposed line w Caliente and Taos substations.

Kent Mikkelsen, manager, said at an earlier meeting that the new line is necessary on the existing line which inadequate by the 1980's.

Red River Academy accredited, tax exempt

Red River Academy has been granted full accreditation and a tax-exempt status.

The private school was founded in September 1976 at Red River and now boasts an enrollment of 36 students and three certified teachers.

The New Mexico State Department of Education granted full accreditation to the school after six months of operation, according to Dr. Owen C. Geer, headmaster.

Geer said the accreditation came after an

investigation by the department established that the school strived to meet all requirements for schooling set by the State Board of Education.

"When we started the school, this was one of our main objectives, to meet these requirements to the best of our abilities," Geer said.

The Internal Revenue Service granted the tax-exempt status to the school after it publicly announced a racially non-discriminatory admission policy.

The IRS will not grant the

status to private schools, who do not announce this policy, according to IRS officials.

The school is on a trimester basis, emphasizing the mastery of the fundamentals, while taking advantage of the outdoor environment, Geer added.

The school now has students in kindergarten through the eighth grade.

According to Geer, the school will be adding other grade levels in the coming years and hopes to add dormitory facilities eventually.

Obituaries

VIGIL, Tony S., 50, resident of Taos, died Saturday, March 12 as the result of an accidental explosion while repairing a pump. He was a well-known well driller here for the past 8 years and is survived by his wife, Dorothy; 3 sons: Gilbert, James and Filbert; a daughter-in-law, Jessica Vigil; and granddaughters, Pamela, all of Taos; 4 sisters: Lourdes Herrera, Mary Grigo, both of Guadalupita, N.M.; Helen Vigil, Las Vegas; N.M.; Mabel Collins, Albuquerque.

Holy Cross Hospital, A native of Mattoon, Ill., she was born on July 29, 1896 and came to Taos with her husband, A.J. Van Cleave, later building a home in Canon where they resided for many years. Besides her husband she is survived by a sister, In Benton, Ark. and a stepdaughter, Athelle Fellhauser, Belton, Mo. Cremation took place in Albuquerque at Fairview Park Crematory. Arrangements by Hanlon Funeral Home.

Evergreen Chapel, Sunday, March 6th at Our Lady of Sorrows church in Arroyo Hondo, where the Funeral Mass was celebrated Monday, March 7th, burial following in the Arroyo Hondo cemetery. Hanlon Funeral Home was in charge.

GUTIERREZ, Zacarias, 77, lifelong resident of Taos, died in Holy Cross Hospital, Feb. 28 after an illness. Memorial services were held at Hanlon's Evergreen

Protest expected over tree removal

A row of cottonwoods lining Santa Fe Road is expected to be the object of controversy this afternoon (March 17) at a public information session concerning the proposed widening of the road. The meeting is scheduled for 5:15 p.m. at the Coronado Center in Taos.

Considerable protest has been expressed by local residents who oppose cutting down any of the 150-year-old trees in the vicinity of the County Courthouse.

District Five Highway Engineer Ed Lucero has pledged that any trees removed will be replaced, with two or three new trees for each one cut down.

Current plans call for the removal of 15 trees, Lucero said.

He said Highway Department representatives at Thursday's meeting will be prepared to discuss alternatives such as sectional development.

TREVINO

Will conduct a Mexico City Inc the Gulf of Mexico, on the Celebration. From Guadalupe us. Please make soon. We still have able.

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cal man

...for receiving stolen property, was released (March 21) on his recognizance after a hearing at District Court for a hearing.

...of the release that he may not be any state's witness in the case, except his attorney, Rodriguez was indicted in connection with the alleged to have place Feb. 16.

...of the release that he may not be any state's witness in the case, except his attorney, Rodriguez was indicted in connection with the alleged to have place Feb. 16.

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The 8 per cent pay raise is intended to meet cost-of-living increases, according to Jose L. Silva, temporary accountant.

Silva told the Commission at its first budget hearing

Taos Pueblo youth killed in accident

A Taos Pueblo youth was killed Friday night (March 18) when the car he was driving failed to negotiate a turn on Upper Ranchillos Road.

Ronald J. Cordova, 17, died instantly in the crash which occurred at 11:45 p.m. Among four passengers in the automobile, two were injured. Patay Trujillo, 22,

and Pat Lujan, 18, both of Taos Pueblo, were treated and released at Holy Cross Hospital.

According to police reports, passengers in the

Tailings line break minor

A break in the Molybdenum tailings line, the second in less than two weeks, was very minor and caused little or no damage, according to Molybdenum officials.

The break occurred Sunday (March 20) at about 6:30 a.m., according to Bob Sacriston, Molybdenum manager, and was largely contained by a "berm" erected along the line for the purpose of preventing tailings spills from entering the Red River.

Sacriston said about 500 pounds of tailings spilled over the berm and went into

expenses, \$67,000 to the road fund for the purchase of a new grader and \$8,000 for insurance benefits.

The county's total operating budget has increased by 251 per cent over a three-year period.

automobile said the driver, headed west on Upper Ranchillos, swerved to avoid striking a dog in the road when he lost control of the vehicle.

The car was traveling at a high rate of speed, according to police. Investigating the incident were State Police Officers John Cordova and W. C. Wilson.

March 15 contributed to the loss of over 2,000 trout, said that the latest spill apparently did no damage at the hatchery.

"The boys here said they didn't notice when it (the spill) went by the hatchery," Standifer said.

Da Nahazli considered

The Da Nahazli Prechool will be the subject of a public hearing before the Taos Town Council, Wednesday (March 30) at 5:15 p.m. at Town Hall.

School representatives are appealing to the Council for reversal of a decision by

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Welcome
VILLA DE DON PERALTA

A state \$30 tax rebate paid well over half a million dollars. Duran cited the tax credit in the session, along with

The poor government, Duran said. "We that don't do anything."

Trujillo took some reorganization. "We carried Senate," said the Senate Mail.

Trujillo also listed reorganizing major pieces of legislation, ceiling on natural gas prices, "monumental," he said.

Trujillo went on to cite the bill as significant for the state allows judges to set fixed provisions, eliminating early par

A measure Taos County judgeship for the Eighth Judicial for a second judge died in the out hope a "better bill" would

He reported support of the to a question over whether as an appointive or elective.

Criticized by a Taos County right-to-work measure session, Trujillo defended his constituency, statewide polls show 75 right-to-work legislation, he said.

Duran, on the other hand House, saying he "does not be One of the landmark acts it ended on time. Trujillo lawmaking at 12 noon sharp supreme court justice sitting. It was the first New Mexico time.

'Welcome' planned for

The Taos Chamber sponsoring a reception for Bill Sianeros Friday (March 21) at Kachina Lodge.

The event was announced by Cantu and Chamber president. The reception, honoring Jane Sianeros, is intended to be the general public to meet the administrator.

Gallegos expressed his co-hosting the reception, said, "of increased community and business community and

Cantu has noted the Sianeros working as town. Additional information available by calling the Chamber.

RELIGIOUS JEWELRY FOR CONFIRMATION



The Taos News

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The students also claimed violation of their freedoms of speech, assembly and press. A news release from the students also calls the "racial issue" a "cheap" excuse.

The student representatives said that Martínez, talking directly to Meyers, said Meyers was representing "one public," which the students took to mean Anglos.

The students, who marched from the High School through the Plaza, intended to spend most of the day at Kit Carson Park.

Local merchants and community members donated refreshments and lunch for the protesters, who were to have joined an announced picket line of the school administration building Wednesday at 4 p.m.

More than 100 parents and teachers were to have picketed the central office. The group was to include members of the Taos Municipal Education Association and the Concerned Parents Association.

The action was to be taken "as a symbol of the school board and what it represents," according to Glen Miller, National Education Association-New Mexico representative.

A decision to picket was made by some teachers attending a TMEA meeting Tuesday (May 9). Almost 90 percent of the members present voted to endorse those who picketed.

Miller told the group the picket lines would be peaceful and orderly and that he would join on the lines.

TMEA resolved, by a vote of 49-3-3, to condemn the school board for recent decisions not to rehire at least 12 non-tenured teachers.

The TMEA resolution cited the board's disregard for professional ability and the recommendations of administrators.

According to information presented at the TMEA meeting, 10 of the teachers who were not rehired were recommended by their supervisors for re-employment; nine signed the recall petition against Medina; six were from the high school, where student population is not expected to decrease next year; one person's wife is a vice president of CPA; and only one non-tenured teacher who signed is known to have been rehired.

At Tuesday's school board meeting, board chairman Nick Martinez said statements made by board members outside board meetings were individual statements, not board statements. The remark was an apparent reference to radio broadcasts by board member Eli Herrera.

"We represent the entire community," Martinez said. "I would like to see the three cultures get along together as they did in the past."

Martinez said he wished to see the racial issue ended completely.



stors and Albuquerque television stations, before leading a march to the Plaza area. Meyers is student body president.

(Photo by Phil Bateman)

Moly spill contained

By PHIL BATEMAN

Couplers connecting sections of pipe in the MolyCorp tailings line parted early Monday evening resulting in the first tailings "spill" into Red River in more than a year.

The break was detected about 7:30 p.m. Monday (May 8), and was largely contained by repair crews throwing up a temporary dike or "berm" between the break and the river.

The tailings, containing molybdenum refuse from the MolyCorp mine near Questa, apparently entered the Red River in only two areas. The Red River Fish Hatchery downriver from the spill was notified of the break in time to close off the flow of river water into the hatchery. No fish were lost, according to hatchery foreman Jim Standifer.

Moly spokesman Lew Thompson, of Santa Fe, said the spill was "not the worst break we've ever had, but it's a bad one."

There were breaks in all three of the lines that carry the tailings from the

mine to a tailings pond below Questa, and Thompson said Moly officials were puzzled by what caused the couplings to part.

The 12 inch lines that carry the waste from the mine to the pond parallel the Red River through most of the 12 miles between the mine and the tailings pond.

Thompson said the section of line where the breaks occurred was pipe that had been installed for only a year, and there had never been any trouble in that area before.

The breaks occurred near the Questa Ranger Station about seven miles from the mine. The breaks were about 1,000 feet from the river, and the quick work by crews on containing the spill apparently lessened the damage.

Environmental Improvement Division environmentalist Gus Cordova was at the scene of the spill early Tuesday morning and reported that the spill was major in the amount of tailings material that was released, but very little of it got into the river.

Cordova routinely takes samples of river water after such breaks occur. He said the results would be back from Albuquerque in about two weeks.

"The river flow is high due to the spring run-off," Cordova said, "so the dilution of the material is good."

Cordova said the river was "milky" at the two entrance points of the spill, but he did not see any dead fish in the areas of the river he inspected.

Thompson said the mine was shut down as soon as the spills were reported Monday night, and the company hoped to have repairs completed and be back in operation by Wednesday.

According to Thompson, Moly officials were very concerned as to the cause of the couplings separating.

"A very intensive investigation has been called for by management," Thompson said, "and a news release will be released when the investigation is completed."

Thompson said it was "impossible" to estimate the amount of tailings material that entered the Red River.

Zoning Commission says no to minister's mobile home

By MERLEE DANNEMANN

The continuing Taos sewer moratorium has forced the town's Planning and Zoning Commission to deny a request from a Pentecostal minister to locate a mobile home on

the site of her proposed church.

Rev. Ruth Henderson of the Indian Mission Church, Pentecostal Church of God, said she intended to use the mobile home as a parsonage until her Texas-supported mission raises funds for a permanent building. Funds have already become available, she said, to purchase four subdivision lots and build the church itself.

Town planning assistant Raymond Cisneros said the commission was instructed to "hold down" all mobile home requests until the moratorium is lifted.

"Temporary" mobile home permits are seen as a problem for the town. At an orientation session last month for

cording to planning coordinator Walter Vigil.

A request by Mr. and Mrs. Leo Tafoya of Tafoya's Day Care Center was approved at the April 27 hearing. They intend to move their child care service into a residential building owned by Gus Gallegos on Salazar Road.

The seven-member commission remains one member short, after one of Lovato's seven appointees withdrew.

Archie Gallegos, manager of Gas Co. of New Mexico, was selected by the commissioners as their chairman.

ers' due July 1

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"That's no problem, though," Gonzalez said. "They can sign a fictitious name, as long as they show that the money was received."

with representatives of the Southern Housing Authority and the Indian Health Service Monday (April 23) to sign a mutually cooperative agreement to bring piped water to about 250 existing homes.

Two separate systems consisting of a storage tank fed by two wells will be constructed as soon as bids for the first step, excavation of the wells, are prepared, according to Tribal Secretary Roy Bernal. A third system may be built in the future for new housing near Arroyo Seco fronting State Highway 150.

In keeping with the wishes of tribal members, no facilities are to be built in traditional areas. Residents living inside the village walls will be able to obtain water from the community system at special points to be constructed nearby.

A Taos Pueblo voting precinct was authorized by the County Commission Friday (April 20) after the county clerk's office reported that Taos precinct No. 5, on the northeast segment of the town, is approaching its legal limit of 800 registered voters.

In addition, a petition bearing the legally

The Governor's Commission approved the Commission's action Monday (April 23), according to Bernal. He cited the distance older people must travel to vote, and the language barrier in explaining the functioning of voting machines as prime reasons for the Pueblo move for its own polling place.

"Issues affecting Indians are appearing on ballots more and more," Bernal commented. He also predicted that his own people might be more likely to seek office in the future with a separate precinct on Pueblo land.

Sanitation district vote heading down to wire

Voters in the Ranchos area go to the polls Tuesday (May 1) to decide whether to form a water and sanitation district.

But they are not expected to turn out in large numbers. About 1,700 taxpaying electors are qualified to vote. Sanitation district elections in New Mexico usually show small voter turnouts.

Those who vote yes to establishing the district also will be asked to select three members to its board of directors. The candidates, in the order in which they will appear on the ballot, are Paul Valerio, Ranchos Elementary teacher; Delfino Torrez, Taos County federal programs director; Shirley Romero, Taos County accountant clerk; Robert Daigh, engineer; and Bob Draper, plumber.

Profiles of the candidates appear on Page A-10 of this newspaper.

The communities in the proposed district boundaries are Ranchos, Talpa, Llano Quemado, Cordillera, Los Cordovas and Ranchitos de Abajo, bounded by Camino del Medio.

Eligible to vote are those persons who live in the area, are registered to vote in the state of New Mexico and pay real or personal property taxes.

Anyone who has a question about eligibility is advised to go the polls Tuesday, where County Clerk Francisco Gonzales and Tony Lopez, attorney for the proposed district, will have affidavits for voters to sign.

Two polls will be open from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m.:

Voters from Ranchos precinct 21, Llano Quemado Precinct 22 and Talpa precinct 23 vote at St. Francis gym.

Voters from Los Cordovas precinct 6 and residents of Ranchitos de Abajo living south of Camino del Medio vote at Los Cordova community center.

Second spill at Molycorp

The second Molycorp, Inc. tailings spill into the Red River in a little over a month has been labeled "severe" by an Environmental Improvement Division investigator.

Molycorp took exception to the label.

The spill was Thursday, April 19, about eight miles down river from Moly's molybdenum mine near Questa. John Stutsman, the investigator, said the accident apparently was caused when a coupling in the tailings pipeline loosened at about 5:30 that morning.

Stutsman said the line crosses the Red River on a concrete trestle at the point where the spill occurred.

A spill earlier this year, March 17, has prompted the state EID to request that Moly be fined for improper discharge into the river. Maxine Goad, of the EID's water control division, said she sent a letter to the federal Environmental Improvement Agency April 3, asking that a fine be levied against the corporation.

The maximum fine possible is \$10,000, according to Goad.

Commenting on the latest spill, Stutsman said he based his "severe" finding on the murkiness of the river near the accident. Stutsman said water samples taken from the river had not been analyzed as of Tuesday (April 24).

Molycorp general manager Bob Sacrison disagreed with Stutsman. Sacrison said the river is so muddy from spring runoff that it

is impossible to gauge the severity of the spill based on the water's appearance.

Sacrison added that earth

dikes, built up near the tailings line at several points along the river, held most of the spill. Crews were working near the spill site at the time and more dikes were hastily thrown up to control the discharge, Sacrison said.

Stutsman said he saw no dead fish in the river near the spill site.

Henry Cortez, director of the Red River Fish Hatchery located downstream from Moly, said no fish were killed as a result of the spill. Cortez said Moly called

when the accident happened, and the flow of the river into the hatchery was stopped immediately.

inside

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Billy Blair

imentary dinner for two at El Portal box of candy, courtesy of Coronado nacy, in celebration of National tary Week, which ends Friday.

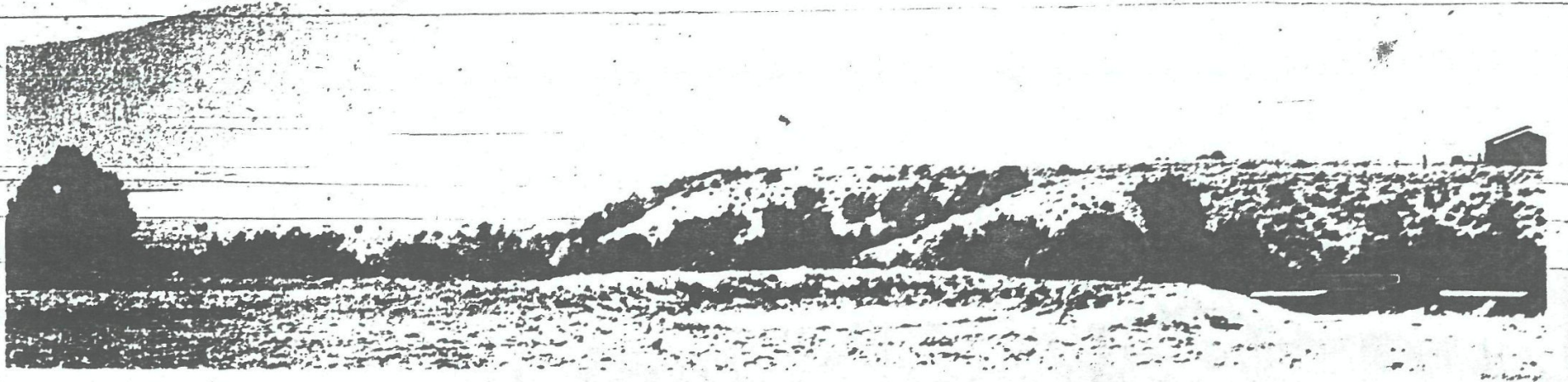
'special'

he clients ask about her and how she is. igil blends career and home, thanks, she says, and Raul, who works at Molycorp, Inc. She ughter of Polito and Tina Martinez of Talpa. is three sons also think she is pretty special.

at Vigil is no newcomer to the secretarial he studied for a year at Highlands University and for eight years for petroleum distributor hell before applying for the job with the on for retarded citizens.

on the job over 25 other applicants. And since to work there last year, Patricia Vigil has won ts of everyone associated with the retarded program.

en los valles



In the wind...

Play was stopped several times Saturday (May 24) in the State AA Baseball Championship game between Questa and Hatch

(Hatch won) because of low visibility caused by blowing dust. The Questa Volunteer Fire Department tried to water

down the area around the field, but as this photograph from near Questa Junior-Senior High School shows, the dust was coming

from Molycorp's tailings ponds just west of town. High winds stirred up the tailings by mid morning.

Molycorp's tailings blow, spill in river

QUESTA — Molybdenum milling waste flowed into the Red River and tailings pond dust blew across the Sunshine Valley near here last week.

The spill, May 20, was caused by a break in a tailings pipe about a quarter-mile west of the mine entrance. It was estimated that a ton of waste spilled into the Red River 30 minutes before the break was repaired.

The dust was caused by high winds, Saturday (May 24), whipping across the area west of Questa

where Molycorp maintains several "ponds" which allow the tailings slurry to settle, so water used in the process can be put back into the Red River.

The dust caused play to be delayed several times in the State AA Baseball Tournament at Questa High School. Several baseball fans blamed the tailings ponds for the dust, but the state Environmental Improvement Division had received no complaints by Monday (May 28).

Molycorp has used a chemical spray on the ponds in an effort to stop dust from blowing.

Ken Hargis of the EID office in Santa Fe said air quality monitors remain near the high school, but the agency has had trouble finding anyone to check them and change filters.

He said the last chemical analyses on the dust were done about a year ago. Those analyses reported no serious health hazards, EID reported.

Cordova, head of Taos' EID office, was on leave May 20 when the spill occurred. He said he was driving by the area when he noticed tailings

around the pipe. He said he notified his office, but the spill already had been reported.

Molycorp spokesman Lewis Thompson of Santa Fe said most of the milling tailings were collected in shelves near the mill gate. "The spring runoff is already muddy and we added to that cloudiness for a few miles," Thompson said.

He said EID, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, the U.S. Bureau of Land Management and the state Game and Fish Department were notified of the spill.

en los valles

July 17 80



Tailings

Manuel R. Ortega of Questa shakes molybdenum tailings dust from trees on his property on the back road to the Questa Ranger Station. A Molycorp tailings pipe there broke about four weeks ago, spraying the trees with dust and spilling liquid tailings into an

acequia. Molycorp is in the process of moving about five miles of its lines along State Road 38, so that the lines will be on the other side of the road from the river. But a spokesman said there are no plans to relocate the lines which go through private easements near Questa.

River leak reported but not acequia spill

QUESTA — Molycorp reported a molybdenum tailings spill in the Red River Monday (July 14). Another spill in the Acequia del Rio Colorado about four weeks ago was not reported.

Monday's spill took place about 10:45 a.m. when a hydro-lift and its trailer came loose from a truck near the new entrance at Goat Hill Gulch. The lift and trailer rolled backward, hitting one of the tailings lines and breaking it.

Lewis Thompson, Molycorp's spokesman in Santa Fe, said tailings spewed from the pipe for about five minutes. Thompson said Monday he didn't have an estimate of how much tailings got into the Red River, but Red River Fish Hatchery manager Henry Cortez said the spill was minor.

"We didn't even have to divert any water," Cortez said of the hatchery ponds downstream from the spill.

The state Environmental Improvement Agency was notified of Monday's spill, but Charles Nylander of the EIA's surface water division said the agency received no word of a spill during June. He said Molycorp reported July 8 that it had no tailings spills during the month of June.

But Manuel R. Ortega of Questa said last week a pipe which crosses his property east of town

broke four weeks ago, flooding the area with liquid tailings which were sprayed over the trees. The tailings also spilled into the Acequia del Rio Colorado, which leaves the Red River near the Questa Forest Service office and flows southeast, local residents said.

The tailings flowed down the irrigation ditch for about a mile. A property owner in the area said Molycorp dispatched crew to the area who scraped the accumulated tailings from the ditch.

Ortega said his grandfather signed a right-of-way lease with Molycorp about 20 years ago. Ortega's grandfather died several years ago and Ortega said Molycorp officials have approached him about renewing the lease which run out soon. But Ortega said he was not interested in renewing the right-of-way lease with Molycorp.

Thompson of Molycorp said last month's spill was not reported to state or federal agencies because spills on company land do not require reports.

But Nylander said Molycorp's license to operate requires the reporting of all spills into public waterways including irrigation ditches and "any other failure of the system that results in a discharge of tailings off the company property."

Molycorp pays for Questa study

QUESTA — Molycorp will sponsor a comprehensive impact study for Questa, ac-

cording to former Molycorp official John McGraw. The village council accepted

the proposal at a meeting Molycorp officials July 7.

McGraw, who has since resigned from Molycorp and taken a job in Virginia, said Molycorp will pay a consulting firm for the study which will review state and federal programs to determine what funds might be available for roads, sewers, sewage treatment plant and recreational facilities.

The study will recommend what steps Questa should take to prepare for the additional activity caused by the expanded mining operations at Molycorp.

"Molycorp will pay for the study, but the contractor will work for the town of Questa," according to R.G. Dewey, a Molycorp vice president, in a memo to C.R. Sacrison, general manager of the Questa mine.

Dewey said the consulting firm will be chosen by Molycorp.

Contraband seized

QUESTA — A local man was released on \$400 bail after he was charged with the possession of stolen property estimated at more than \$9,000.

Manuel Sanchez, 34, who lives on Cabresto Road here,

was jailed July 8 and released the same day for allegedly taking small motors, pumps and tools from Molycorp and large farm equipment from Dos Hermanos Ranch in San Luis, Colo.

State Police officer Dennis Cordova said the stolen property was located, photographed and inventoried June 7. About \$6,700 worth of the property was recovered and returned to the owners.

Cordova said about \$2,700 worth of remaining items remain missing.

Magistrate Judge J. F. Romero of Taos set bond at \$4,000 on the charge of third degree felony and accepted 10 percent of that as bail.

Cordova said the case is still under investigation.

Red River concert set

RED RIVER — Students from the Taos School of Music will perform here at 8 p.m. July 25 at the Little Red School House.

Chilton Anderson, director, said the program was not yet set, but would be announced prior to the concert.

State Police officer Dennis Cordova said the stolen property was located, photographed and inventoried June 7. About \$6,700 worth of the property was recovered and returned to the owners.

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Cordova said the case is still under investigation.

Stumped for new k

QUESTA — The two or three thieves and estimated \$40,000 in cash they stole from Cent Bank's branch office here July 8 are still missing this week, and the Federal Bureau of Investigation apparently is no closer to finding them.

"Initially, it looks like we don't have any good suspects," an FBI agent said Monday (July 14).

The agent said the FBI will be in the Taos and Questa area soon, trying to obtain more information about the mid-morning, armed robbery in which branch manager Robert Ortega and teller Mary Ann Cortez were handcuffed and forced to lie on the floor while two men cleaned out cash drawers and the vault.

A third man was believed to have driven the getaway car. All three were described as Hispanic but other descriptions varied.

The State Police arrested three men from

Dixon fence

DIXON — The Bureau of Land Management plans to fence some arroyo bottoms and put up no-trespassing signs in some areas here to keep people from building residences.

Richard Niemeyer, the Taos area manager for the BLM, said the fencing and signs are part of the agency's efforts to settle land claims in the area.

BLM will be selling about 680 acres near Dixon in the next few years. That land either will go, for a fee of \$1.50 per acre, to people who have lived there for several years and can prove "color of title" or sold to the

highest bid the sales m for 20 years

He said signs, to be prevent fur on BLM land to build a fe but build fe bottoms wh drive onto Niemeyer's.

The restri the site of struction p who say th can't produ

Changes made

QUESTA — Village patrolman Carlos Diaz, who recently was certified by the New Mexico Law Enforcement Academy, was named acting chief of police here until the July 17 Village Council's final budget hearing. The action took place at a special council meeting Thursday, July 10.

The council, which has been plagued by police department problems for months, also hired a full time officer, Adrian Tang, who has worked a week on a temporary basis. Diaz had high praise for Tang, saying he performs like an officer with about seven months experience.

Diaz, who has been with the department 11 months, said, "We desperately need three officers — two cannot give 24-hour coverage." He also told the council a new police vehicle is needed.

Councilman Bernabe Ortega said, "We are in a pinch, budget-wise, and cannot afford three officers."

YCC tours

QUESTA — The Youth Conservation Corp (YCC) group loaded a bus and later filed quietly past Molycorp's noisy power plants as they struggled with hard hats and unfamiliar goggles required of anyone visiting the area.

The 20 YCC members and their four adult leaders enjoyed the tour of Molycorp facilities here Friday (July 11), except for the goggles. Blinding sweat ran into their eyes and they were left with rim-rings on their cheeks. But that's the rules, reminded tour guide and Molycorp environmental coordinator Cynthia Stark.

At the beginning of the tour, Stark gave a brief history of the mine, Molycorp's future plans and a description of the mining operation. Director Albert Ortiz said YCC members must spend at least 10 hours of their 40-hour week in environmental study and this year the emphasis is on energy and energy alternatives.

The Taos County youth, 15 to 18 years of age, were chosen at random from their applications to work in the Questa Ranger District. The group, which has been accident-free for two years because of rigid safety standards, has been busy building district boundary fences, cutting vigas for storage cabins, assisting in surveying and marking Forest Service property boundaries.

Ortiz said they also perform fence and trail maintenance, recreation site cleanup and reseeding bare spots left by flood damage last year. One special project was replacing the culverts at Columbine campground damaged by flood water.

The purpose of the federally funded program is to provide employment for one summer for youth who will do conservation and environmental work for the Ranger District

and provide education.

Questa and students in receive environmental credit for work.

Two or three year, because standing we



Tour

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MARCH 19 81



Phil Halaman

acknowledge the cheers of their fans Saturday (March 14) after they bested Thoreau 101-95 to take the state Class AA boys championship. The happy Panthers are, from left, David

Craft, Joe Gurule, Chris Lopez, Terry Vasquez, Rudy Romero, Allen Fernandez, Eugene Vazarraga, Clarence Vigil, Kenneth Pacheco and Edwin Mascarenas. For more on Penasco's first state championship, please see Pages A-8 and B-1.

Cost schools \$1,200

traffic accident cost the Taos \$1,200 in damage this

building, now the special received a spray painting of under block wall outside the all victim to a car.

Alberto Vidaurre said the two dated. He said police have not to make an arrest this

ta Middle School assistant- age at the special education

office "could have been a lot worse."

She said important and confidential files and records were left undisturbed. Doorknobs, locks, telephones and desk tops were spray painted and obscenities were sprayed on walls inside and out.

Two adults and four juveniles were ordered by Taos Municipal Judge Joe Montoya to pay \$170.50 each in restitution for damage to a window at Taos Elementary School two weeks ago. Ashley Owens and Brett Bayley, both 10, along with the four youths, were charged with rolling a 1,000 pound tire through the window.

ns 'Texas' article

report truly unbiased data and e treated accordingly."

see Page A-5 for complete list of

Garcia, president of Zia, said this Albuquerque the firm "used stan- tific research techniques, which i by all reputable firms."

he largest polling firm in the state, n in existence since 1973. Garcia said with specific questions concerning ey is invited to submit them to Zia in

Taos, Union and Colfax Counties. The survey was based on "random digit dialing," a polling technique in which a computer selects numbers at random, eliminating commercial numbers but including unlisted numbers.

Garcia testified in court that a survey of that size has an "accuracy rating of plus or minus 5," meaning it may be off up to 5 percent either way.

Zia said pollsters interviewed 300 persons in Taos County, of which 66.7 percent were Hispanic, 27 percent Anglo, 1.3 percent Indian, and 5 percent "other".

inside

of the survey results ran at the of Page 1 of the March 5 issue of The noe; as an adjunct to the report of the of venue.

after signers objected to that article, ad "Texans get low marks." The states: "Prominently featuring such le, which is guaranteed to inflame at percent of all the tourists who read bordered inset on your front page is ous and displays in our opinion an ack of sensitivity and judgement t."

survey, commissioned by attorneys rtindale, took place Jan. 9-13. Zia 2,800 telephone calls to residents of

Arts	B-2
El Crepusculo	A-12
Favor y contra (opinion)	A-4
Horoscope	B-8
Legal notices	A-13
Obituaries	A-13
People	B-6
Que pasa (events)	A-13
Real estate	A-16
Record	A-13
Regional news	B-1
Sports	A-8
Want ads	A-15

Sorry, the TV listing did not arrive this week.

in brief

EID checks Moly spill

QUESTA A two-man crew from the Environmental Improvement Division sampled water in the Red River last week after a March 9 spill of molybdenum tailings.

Tony Drypolcher of the state Environmental Improvement Division in Santa Fe said he and Jerry Jacobl, the EID's invertebrate zoologist, found some biological effects due to the spill but their investigation is not complete.

The spill occurred about

10:30 p.m. March 9, and the flow was stopped in less than one hour, reported Molycorp manager C.R. Sacrison. Drypolcher said Molycorp notified the EID.

Last week's spill of between 2-3 tons of tailings was due to a "wear spot" in a pipe near the Goat Hill Campground, Drypolcher said.

This was the 47th time in five years that Molycorp has reported spills, mostly into the Red River, he said. Drypolcher said during 1980, five spills were reported, four into the river.

Fight ends with arrests

Two Canon residents were in jail earlier this week after a Saturday night fight at Kachina Lodge.

Sheriff Arthur Trujillo said Melvin Trujillo, 26, and Carol Moya, 20, were arrested by Deputies Walter Herrera and Toby Miera who observed them fighting in the lodge parking lot around midnight.

Trujillo and Moya drove away and the deputies chased them through town, down the Raton by-pass and back to Canon where they were arrested, the sheriff said.

Both Trujillo and Moya were cited for public fighting, and Trujillo also was charged with reckless driving, evading an officer and resisting arrest, the sheriff reported.

Deer blamed for wreck

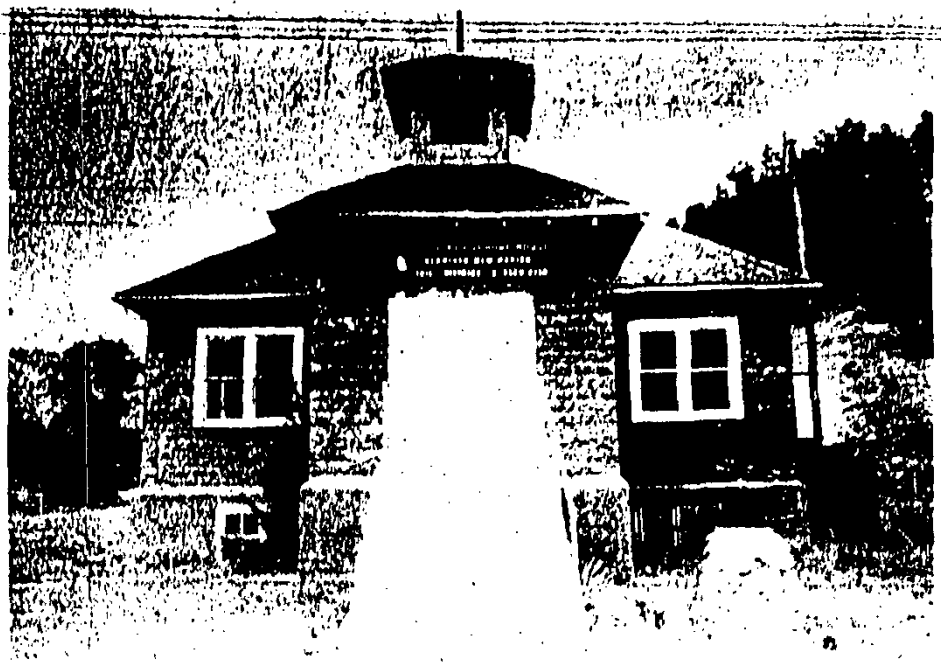
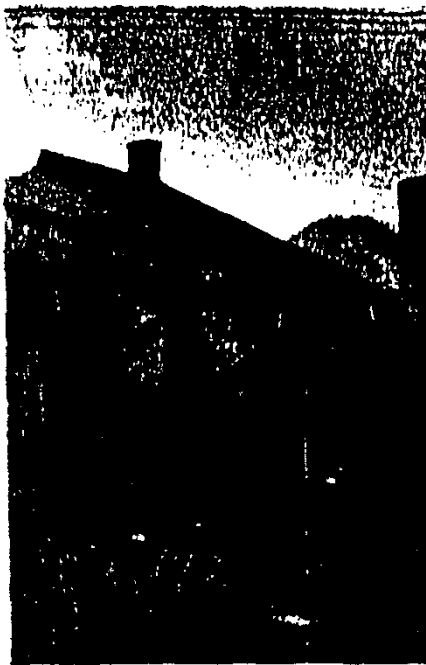
COSTILLA-Joseph Martinez, 20, was injured Sunday (March 15) when his pickup overturned.

Martinez told State Police Officer Dennis Cordova that he was trying to avoid a deer crossing State Road 3, about four miles south of Costilla.

His passenger, Bernie Tafaya, 15, was not injured.

Cordova said Martinez, who complained of back injuries, was taken to Holy Cross Hospital in Taos via the Red River Ambulance.

Cordova said the investigation is continuing.



Steve Winston

ver's past.
n—built of
on leader

Brigham Young in 1895. Right, the one-room school built through community efforts in 1915 to replace a log structure destroyed by fire. The brick building is

deteriorating, and its owner will give it away. The schoolhouse is the subject of a little dispute between the town and the Questa Independent School District.

Historic buildings uncertain

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couldn't make it," the postmaster said.

The school closed once in the 30s, reopened in 1939, and closed permanently during World War II.

"It was a good school," Prunty said. There were the usual eight grades in one large room heated by a coal and wood furnace in the basement. "The community used to haul coal in from Dawson or the men would cut wood in the mountains for fuel," Prunty said.

There was no electricity; in fact, the Red River area itself lacked centrally generated power until the REA drove a line into the area in 1947. "We used to have Saturday night dances by kerosene light," Prunty recalled.

Prunty said the teachers presiding over the school were strict disciplinarians. "I carved an initial on a new desk with my knife, and I got a real licking with that teacher's belt," he said.

Prunty said it would sadden him to see it go. He would rather see it used as a museum.

EQUALLY historic is the Old Brick Building. Morris Young has heard a few stories about it.

Her grandfather-in-law, B.J. Young, built the structure for his home in 1895 with bricks he fired himself. "It was the only brick building in town," she said.

B.J. Young, out of Virginia by way of a logging operation in Twining, was a relative of Brigham Young's and Red River's first postmaster.

from Trinidad by wagon through LaBelle.

He and his wife Sarah had 13 children—most of them raised in the brick structure.

"They had the only piano in Red River, and there was singing and dancing in their house every Saturday night. No liquor, of course; they were Mormons," said Ms. Young.

Not only was B.J. Young a postman, but he was also an amateur dentist filling in for the lack of the real thing. "Grandpa would just put people on his kitchen table and pull teeth," she said.

It's not a large building. "I went in there some years ago and thought 'Good Lord, how could any couple raise 13 children in such a little house,'" Mrs. Young said.

The Youngs sold the place to a family named Clapper in the 20s. "They ran it as a tourist unit in 1925 or 1926 and they built cabins on the grounds," Mrs. Young said.

After this, it fell into disuse; and it has deteriorated since. "I think anybody could have it, but it would be extremely expensive to move," Ms. Young said.

THE FATE of the Old Brick Building is up in the air.

Reeves doesn't want it destroyed and hopes a community effort will be mounted to save it by stripping the bricks from the frame and moving only the skeleton and roof. Enough bricks would remain in good shape

contribute money," he said.

If no action is taken, it would be four years before the townhouse project reached it, but Reeves doesn't think the building will last

that long.

The only people who can decide whether either building lasts—or is worth preserving—are the citizens of Red River.

in brief

Tailings spill near Questa

QUESTA—A spill July 5 from the the MolyCorp tailings line was kept from the Red River by a berm mineworkers built, said Gabriel Jeantette of the Environmental Improvement Division (EID) in Taos.

The line runs from the mine to MolyCorp tailings dumps southwest of Questa—High School. The line runs parallel to State Road 38 and the Red River. The spill occurred when a pipe broke near the Questa Ranger Station. Tailings ran

on to property owned by the U.S. Forest Service and Elliro and Moises Rael of Questa, Jeantette said.

"It ran parallel to the river about 300 yards but the closest it came was about 100 yards from the river," Jeantette said.

He said he couldn't estimate the volume of spill from the break because pressure had sprayed it over a wide area.

Jeantette said the mine is required to report such spills to the EID's Water Pollution Control Bureau in Santa Fe.

O'Brien takes sales helm

ANGEL FIRE—Stuart O'Brien has been appointed sales manager for the Angel Fire Corporation Sales Office, won first place in the Budweiser Cup, Utah Skiing Championship, at Snow Basin last year.

O'Brien is also a Salt Lake City native, representative for Nordica boots, K-2 skis, and Prismatic poles. He is also a world class skier and former ski coach.

bill, because it's a verified threat to life and property," he said.

People who live along the river, including officers of the livestock association and residents of Garcia, Colo., went to Santa Fe for the House Appropriation Committee's hearing on the bill.

Livestock association president Elias Vigil said he visited Santa Fe five or six times, lobbying for the bill.

The original \$8 million funding request was amended to \$11.6 million after a Department of Interior cost analysis was submitted.

Mouth to mouth

Practice makes perfect and that's why seventh-grader Robert Blanco, 13, keeps practicing his cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) technique on this Resusci-baby. Blanco was one of many students who participated in the four-day, 12-hour basic life support class at Questa Elementary. District nurse Mary Harrison said the program was initiated at the students' request and those who pass the course are certified for one year.

Matthew Lit

Village Council claims land for new, safer Kiowa Bridge

QUESTA—The Village Council decided Monday (March 18) to go ahead with plans to build a new bridge over the Red River on Kiowa Road, in spite of one landowner's objection.

The new bridge, which has been in the planning stages since the old one washed out in 1983 floods, will replace a temporary wooden structure that has been rebuilt once in the year and a half it has been there.

But the new bridge will be located about 200 feet east of the existing temporary bridge, and will require four landowners in the area to donate to the village some land and parts of private roads.

Though, according to Mayor John Gaillour Jr., all four of the residents in 1983 had agreed to dedicate the necessary land to the village for the bridge, one of them changed his mind recently.

The village will claim eminent domain, he said. "We use this as a last resort," Gaillour said, "but we were not able to come to an agreement with the homeowner."

The new bridge will change the route of the Kiowa Road, taking out a sharp curve and opening it up to larger vehicles, like school buses and maintenance equipment, Gaillour said. The new bridge will also be strong enough to hold these heavy vehicles, unlike the existing temporary bridge.

Gaillour said the village, acting on the original agreement with the landowners, has already gotten approval for the bridge, and has completed engineering and site preparation.

Flood money, frozen in 1983, has been released, and Questa officials are looking at receiving \$225,000 of the \$1.3 million allotted for Taos County.

EID to prepare reports

QUESTA—The state Environmental Improvement Division (EID) will be releasing two comprehensive reports regarding local air quality data collected through the years by various agencies.

Spurred by a meeting with Questa Mayor John Gaillour Jr., the EID will compile a report of all available data concerning local air quality collected up to 1983, including that collected by MolyCorp. This report will be released by April 8.

In addition, the Air Quality Bureau of the EID will release a report of its findings from a special study conducted in the spring and summer of 1984. This report will be released by May 13.

The second study will include analysis of samples of molyb-

denum tailings and nearby soil, as well as findings from air sampling at monitors at the high school and the fish hatchery.

But some of the mayor's, the Council's and the citizens' concerns may not be addressed.

"It is important to emphasize, again, that some of these issues are highly technical and complex and that obtaining the data necessary to provide sound scientific conclusions about them is both very expensive and time-consuming," stated EID deputy director Richard Holland in a March 14 letter to Mayor Gaillour.

In addition, the letter stated, an assessment of the risk factor of breathing airborne molybdenum tailings will be "difficult, if not impossible, to fulfill if needed

medical research has not been completed.

Tito Madrid, EID regional director for the northeast quadrant of the state, said at a Monday (March 18) Council meeting that he was not aware of any medical research being conducted at this time.

Finally, Holland is planning a "fairly detailed" letter to Gaillour within the next week, listing information about the status of the proposed Guadalupe tailings dump site, the results of biological essays and toxicity studies of tailings material and fluids, a historical summary of tailings spills that have affected the Red River and a summary of actions taken by the EID in

EN zoning circulates a

By Matthew Lit

EAGLE NEST—The Planning and Zoning Commission is circulating a petition among homeowners who live outside village limits, to get their approval for annexation of their land.

The petition will allow the 23 county residents a chance to voice their opinion on the matter of annexation, said Harvey Kenner of the commission.

This form of annexation through petition is known as "friendly annexation" and is based on a general consensus of those involved, said Kenner.

Only 55 percent of the 23 homeowners need to sign to make it a valid petition. Kenner is confident that unanimous approval is possible.

One problem the commission anticipates is many of the homeowners whose signatures are desired are not full-time residents. It will be necessary to

In brief

Comments as

A U.S. Bureau of Land Management analyzing the potential environmental impact of MolyCorp's tailings disposal plan at the Guadalupe Mountains is now public inspection.

MolyCorp has proposed a project around 200 million tons of waste facility to be constructed in a Guadalupe Mountains, about three Questa.

Two 300-400 foot-high rock fills proposed to contain a 1,320-acre area where the waste would be stored.

The Environmental Assessment of the Albuquerque district office of the U.S. Bureau of Land Management will be reviewed by the public at the Area Office, Montevideo Plaza building, Alta Road, 7:45 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday.

Archuleta fir

QUESTA—The school board margin, has decided not to renew superintendent Gilbert Archuleta's school year.

Citing a desire to change the district school district, the board made further listening to opinions for a renewal of Archuleta's contract.

People in favor of keeping Archuleta submitted a petition with 464 signatures supporting the superintendent.

Archuleta has been the Questa superintendent for the last eight years.

The Taos News

April 25, 1985 - Vol. XXVI, No. 42 - Three sections, 38 pages

40¢

Spill floods ditch

By Sammy Lopez

QUESTA—A ton of molybdenum tailings spilled into the south irrigation ditch here early Monday morning (April 22).

The spill, on forest service land two miles south of the ranger station, filled the local ditch with silver-colored water for a mile.

It is the second tailings spill into the south ditch this year.

Leroy Apodaca, Moly manager of administrative services, said a coupling slipped on one of the three pipelines that transport tailings from the mill to the tailings ponds southwest of Questa at about 8:45 a.m.

Moly workers were on the site Tuesday pumping the tailings from a roadway. They were to start cleaning the ditch this week with the help of a local contractor.

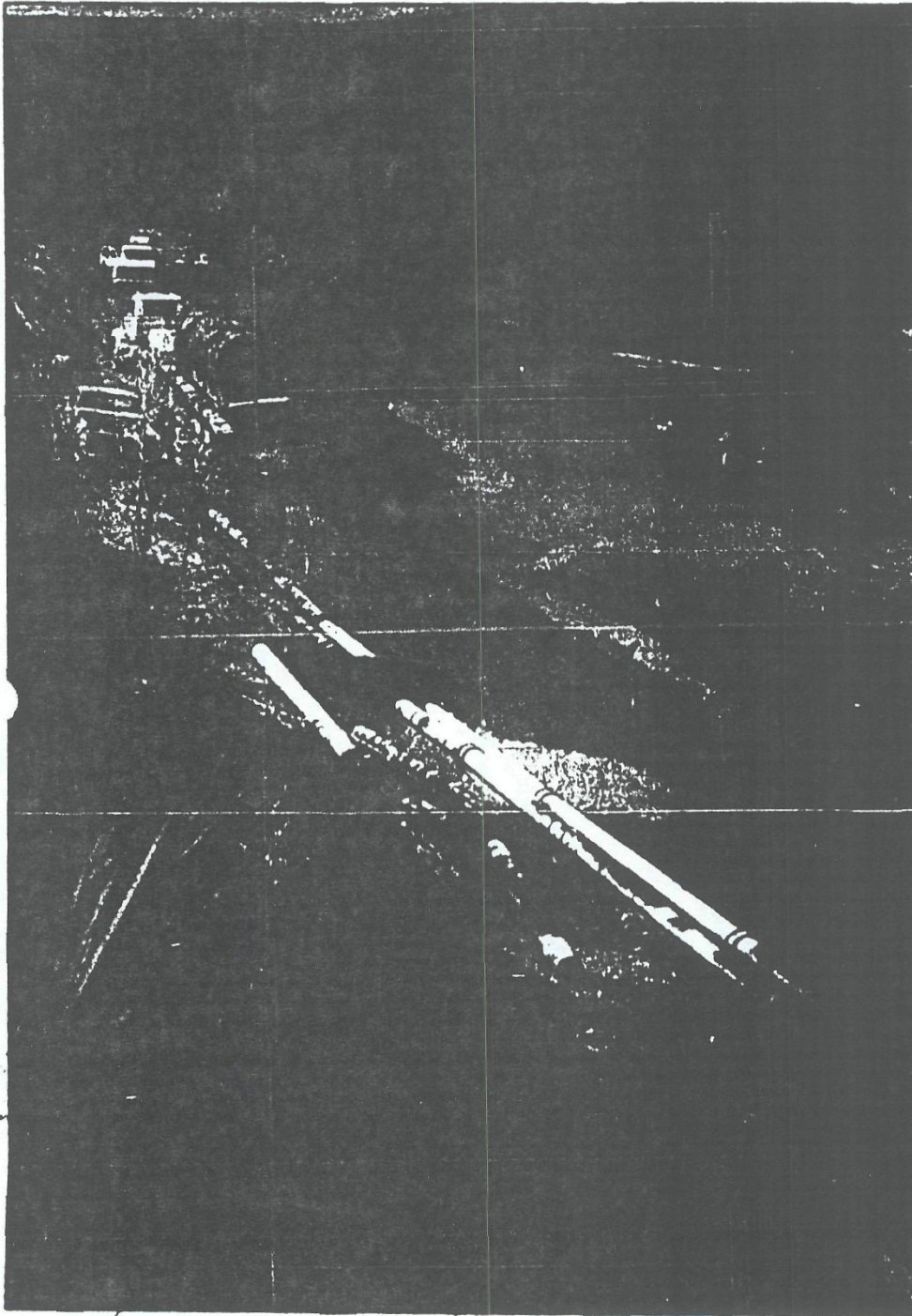
Apodaca said clean up would be finished in two or three days if the ground is dry.

Lloyd Varela, president of Questa Citizens Ditch Association, is not happy. He said the cleaning and repair has not been up to par.

The association has 450 members and provides irrigation water for 600 acres. Two main ditches run north and south. The south ditch water is diverted from the Red River above the ranger station and flows back into the river at the bridge on the main highway south of town.

The ditches do not have irrigation water in them now, but the association hopes to have the water turned on in early May. Run-off from the snow melt keeps a small amount of water in the ditch, which farmers use to water livestock.

Varela would like to see the cleanup of the tailings spills improve. He said in the past the tailings, the residue left over when molybdenum is removed from the ore, have been placed on



Sammy Lopez

Spill site

MolyCorp employee Adelmo Herrera from Molyo Seco is pumping molybdenum tailings

cleaning up after Monday morning spill. The spill dumped a ton of tailings in the area.

Please see SPILL, Page A-2

Mayor promises road timing

La Serna considers land development

By Karen Kos

A one-mile strip of sagebrush between the Francisco-Martinez ditch and Picuris Mountain may be the key to future plans of the La Serna Private Land Grant Association.

That is, if enough landowners who want to pool their holdings can be found.

The idea of developing the corridor has already been discussed by the association's governing board, along with adjoining landowners Melvin Welmer and Peter McAtee, said attorney Jim Brandenburg.

He said the grant association has made a tentative agreement with Welmer to look into the possibility of incorporating the various holdings.

The association's governing board is trying to draw a complete picture of ownership for the 17,000-acre grant, most of which is owned in strips or *lineas* that have been passed down from generation.

Landowners are still being urged to present their deeds to the board for verification of the exact amount of their property, and, in some cases, to establish the actual ownership.

Only one-quarter of the estimated 175 landowners turned out March 17 to have their deeds

checked, said Amadeo Valerio, board president. He urged grant residents in Ranchos, Talpa, Los Cordovas and Llano Quemado to contact to call 758-3237, 758-3647, 758-9498, 758-2511 or 758-9228 for more information.

No progress toward board elections or future plans can be made until all deeds are checked, Valerio said.

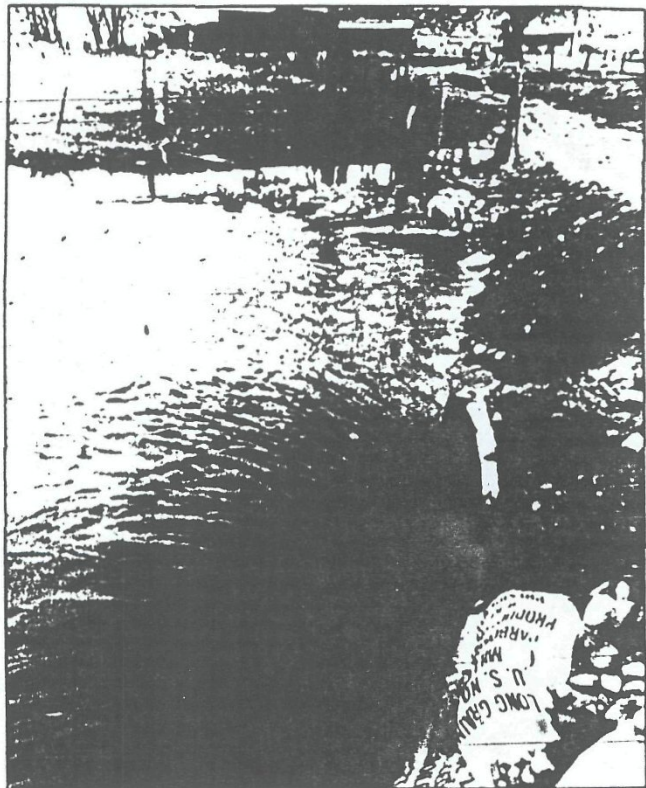
But Brandenburg is quick to point out that long-term development is "far away."

"They don't even know if they can put together enough people to actually have an association that can speak for enough people to actually make it worthwhile," he commented.

As it is now, Brandenburg commented, "most of the land out there is not worth very much." But if there were enough interested landowners, the association could incorporate and designate the one-mile area for communal development, he said.

"If I owned a strip out there that was three feet wide and ran for four miles, I could never use it. Unless I want to build a three-foot path all the way to the top of the Picuris," he explained.

One year ago this month, the Cristobal de la Serna grant was declared private by District Judge Joseph E. Caldwell.



John Hanron

Culvert control

Flooding has been reported in Pilar and minor flooding reported in Ranchitos, El Prado, Arroyo Seco, El Salto and Arroyo Hondo. Above, the waters of the Rio Hondo funnel into a culvert that county crews had reinforced Thursday, April 18.

SPILL

Continued from Page A-1

ditch banks.

During a strong rain tailings are washed back into the ditch. Also MolyCorp sometimes digs the ditches deeper than required making it hard to divert water into the fields, Varela said.

Appocada said he did not know the association was unhappy and is willing to work with them to

correct any problems.

MolyCorp is replacing headgates that were installed after an earlier tailings spill. The first headgates were made of steel pipe and were causing problems. The steel headgates are to be replaced with concrete gates by May 1.

In 1984 there was three tailings spills, two into the Red River.

Varela is also a Questa sixth and seventh grade science teacher who farms 40 acres.

Morales pleads to auto theft

Charles Anthony Morales is being held in Taos County jail on auto theft charges. He is also charged with fleeing town policeman Len Romero.

Morales pleaded not guilty to both charges in District Court

Monday (April 22). The auto was allegedly stolen from Mary Corbett April 6.

District Judge Joseph E. Caldwell set bond at \$10,000 cash or \$20,000 property.

Pauline Vargas top se

Pauline Vargas, Taos Educational Center's "walking encyclopedia" is 1985 secretary of the year.

Vargas, who has worked for six directors in her 12 years at the center, knows the ins and outs of student aide, academic requirements and admissions policies.

So says her current boss, Bob Romero who typed her nomination form himself.

Romero recommended Vargas because of her dozen years of service to higher education.

She is married to Town of Taos street supervisor Leroy Vargas and has two sons, Davey and Leroy Jr.

Loretta Joan Tafoya, secretary to Taos High School's three counselors, won second place; and Diane Romero, secretary to Jose Rodriguez at the Taos Association for Retarded Citizens won third.

All win a host of prizes donated by Taos merchants.

Tafoya is not just the counselors' secretary,

her bosses wrote, but school. Ask her about spirits of any of THS probably tell you.

They commend her lunch hour and treat diplomatically.

And she has out system.

She was nominated Isabel Gonzales and

Romero goes beyond retarded citizens' parents from Penasco can't.

She is married to a three-year-old daughter.

Her boss writes she for 10 staff members, 11 board members.

And, he adds, "at manages to smile."

**FREE PROTECTION:
5 YEAR/36,000 MILE**

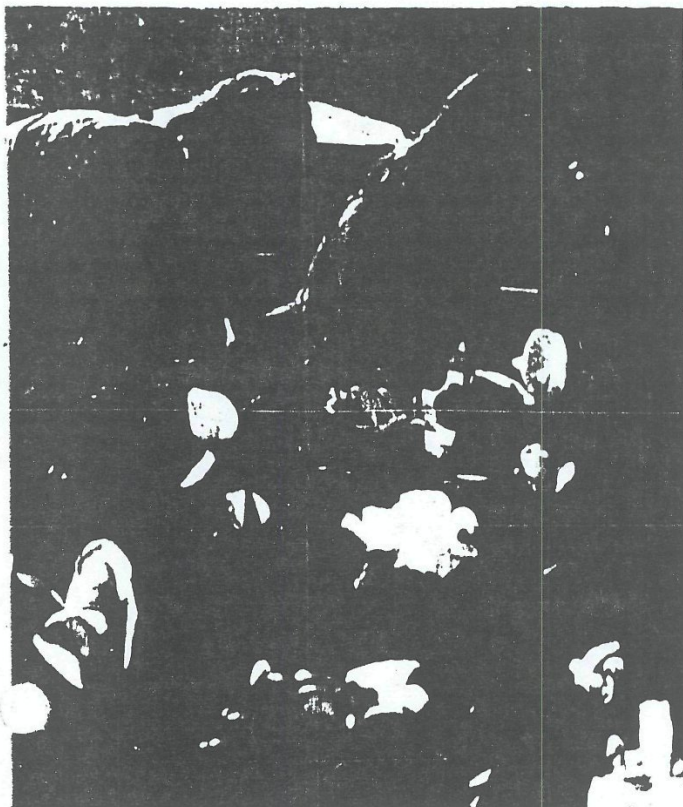
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The Taos News

May 2, 1985 - Vol. XXVI, No. 43 - Four sections, 48 pages

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Sammy Lopez

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up

Plaza flower beds Saturday (April 27). The Women's Division of the Chamber of Commerce is footing the bill for many of the materials for beautification of the Plaza this spring.

Judge moves trial to Colfax County

Veto Vialpando of Questa, charged with vehicular homicide in the death of Taos businessman Richard Grainger, will stand trial in Raton.

District Judge Leon Karelitz Monday (April 29) granted his defense attorney's motion to move the trial out of Taos because of newspaper publicity.

They had sought to move the trial to Rio Arriba County, but Karelitz moved it instead to Colfax County, which is also in the Eighth Judicial District and where his principal bench is located.

The trial is set for July 11.

Karelitz said the entire decision hinged on newspaper publicity in

truck collided Dec. 16 with one driven by Grainger in Taos Canyon.

Defense attorneys also introduced the *The Taos News*' year-end review in which Taos newsmen rated DWI among the top 10 stories of the year.

The judge declined to allow submission of an affidavit from a Taoseno stating that he believed Vialpando could not get a fair trial in Taos.

The only affidavit allowed was one from Sammy Lopez, business manager of *The Taos News*, who verified that the newspaper reaches 96 percent of the households in the Taos County. *Morano Valley News*

Moly spills into river

By Billie Blair

QUESTA—Some 1.7 tons of molybdenum tailings spilled into the Red River April 24, the second spill within the week.

A spill April 22 dumped one ton of tailings into an irrigation ditch.

But state officials and MolyCorp officials are optimistic that new pipelines will put an end to future spills.

John Gould, scientist with the state Environmental Improvement Division, said the new 14-inch, rubber-lined pipes may solve the spill problem.

So did Moly environmentalist Lee Locke, who pointed out that in the four spills within the last year, none have been from the new pipelines.

Under a consent decree signed in August, 1981, Moly has until Oct. 1 to replace all its old 12-inch lines from the mill to the Questa Ranger Station.

The latest spill was from an old line near Cottonwood Campground.

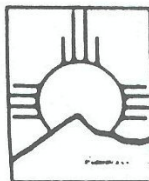
Moly tailings line patrol spotted the spill at 10:35 a.m., Locke said, and the tailings were diverted within 20 minutes from the first leak.

The Red River Fish Hatchery was notified by radio, Gould said. The hatchery is closed for renovation. It is not known whether any fish were in the ponds, which feed off the Red River.

Locke said Moly may finish installing the new pipelines before Oct. 1. She said, in response to the spills, the mine is rotating pipes more frequently and building up earth berms between the pipes and the river.

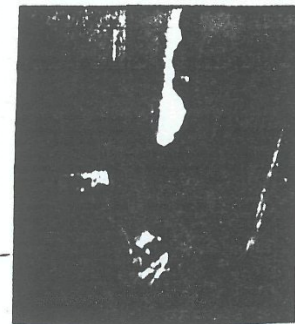
Both Moly and the EID sampled the river the day of the spill to see if the tailings, which contain residue from molybdenum mining, polluted the river. Results were expected by Friday (May 3).

Locke said the company is waiting for the ground to dry before finishing clean-up on the April 22 irrigation ditch spill.



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Matthew Lit

AREA'S DREW JUDYCKI

New trails for experts

RED RIVER—Expert skiers will be able to schuss down 15 new acres of expert trails at the Red River Ski Area when the snow flies.

Improvements are also being made on existing runs.

New trails being cut this summer, at a cost of \$25,000, will increase expert skiing from 15 to 26 percent of the mountain, said Drew Judycki, area co-owner. Smaller branches will connect two new trails being cleared with existing runs, he said.

One of the new trails for this year will service a chairlift, planned for next year's improvements. Other new runs for 1987 are on the drawing board.

Work on the current project started toward the end of June, and Judycki expects trail work to be finished by Thanksgiving Day, the scheduled opening date.

With a snowmaker that can

cover 75 percent of the area, Judycki said he pretty much guarantees the Thanksgiving opening date.

Other work this summer is keeping crews busy handling lift and trail maintenance and overall sprucing up.

Seeding and revegetation is being done on 50 acres of the area. Revegetation work always accompanies any trail work that is done, Judycki said.

Judycki is impressed with the fauna that summer brings to the mountain. Revegetation helps ensure its return each summer.

The stand of grass here is "phenomenal," he said while touring the area Friday (Aug. 2).

Judycki is also concerned with the return of skiers to his slopes this coming season. To ensure that skiers flock back, Judycki said the daily rate will be raised only \$1.

EID, Questa citizens tour sites

QUESTA—The Concerned Citizens of Questa showed state environmentalists last week what they consider evidence that Molybdenum isn't living up to its claims of protecting the environment.

A four-hour meeting, preceeding a tour, gave citizens, village councilmen and school board members a chance to once again air their concerns and ask questions of Environmental Improvement Division officials.

Molybdenum officials said they were not informed of the meeting, nor was anyone from the company invited.

The EID called Molybdenum after the meeting to inform the company the agency had attended the meeting. "That's all we know," said Leroy Apodaca, manager of administrative services.

Members of the citizens group made it clear that they're not for closing the mine. They say

they understand what the mine means to the Questa economy, but they want to see Molybdenum take a stronger interest in the health and welfare of Questa citizens.

"We're not against the mine," said George Weiss, a member of the group. "We're anti-pollution and Molybdenum is a polluter."

Molybdenum spends less than one-half of one percent on keeping the environment clean, states the two-page agenda for

the July 31 meeting.

THE TOUR included a view of the pipelines, acequias and the high school.

Molybdenum tailings were found lying along river banks, said Kathleen Sisneros, bureau chief of the surface water bureau.

Please see DUST, Page B-2

Mom, sister wait to hear fate of kin

—By Matthew Lit

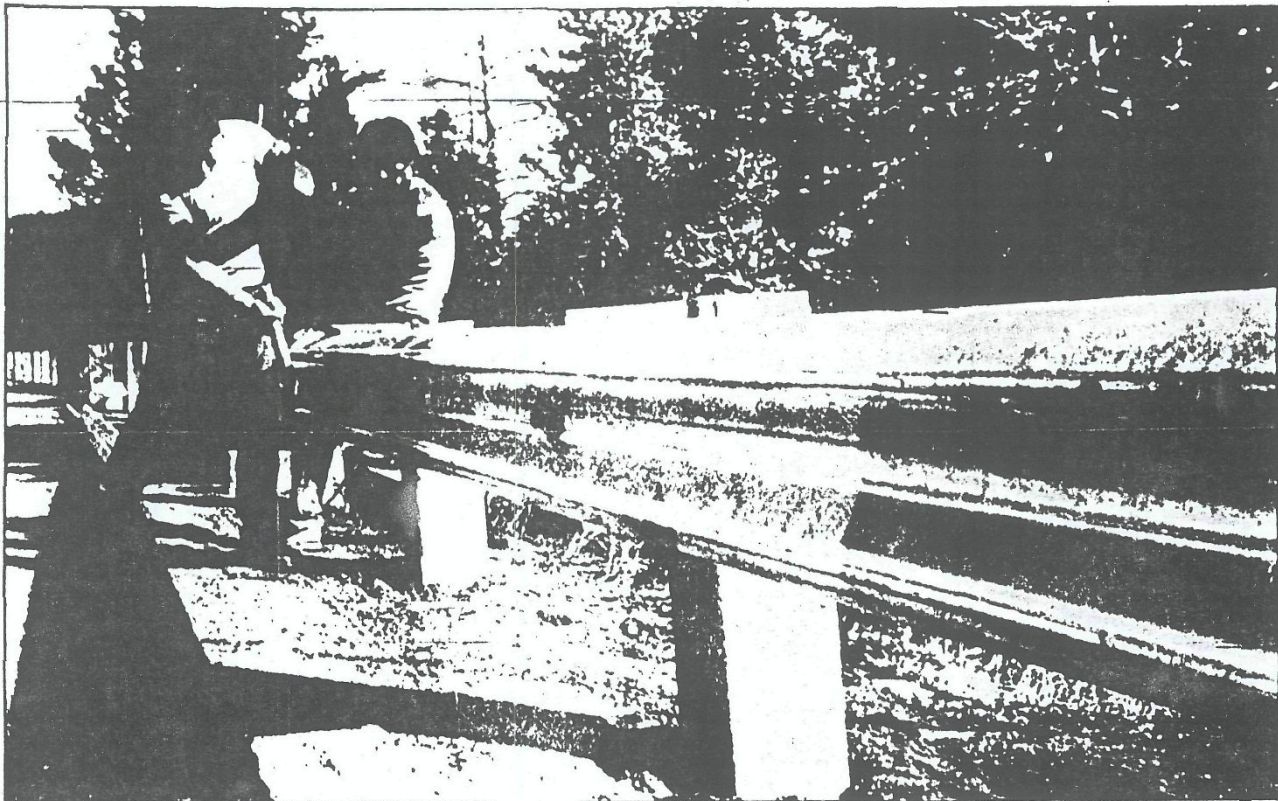
QUESTA—Becky and Mercy Mascarenas still hold hope for relatives missing since Dec. 2 somewhere in Guadalajara, Mexico.

Since the abduction of Benjamin and Patricia Mascarenas of Ely, Nev., that's all sister Becky and mother Mercy Mascarenas have been able to do.

Waiting, hoping to hear some new scrap of information to find comfort in, and then waiting some more.

The Mascarenas and another couple were abducted one Sunday morning from a Guadalajara street by a group of men. They have not been heard from since, nor





Matthew Litt

Protective

Workers from J-H Supply, in Albuquerque, have been busy installing 37,400 feet, or roughly seven miles, of guardrail on the sides of US 64 between Taos and the Moreno Valley. The installation of guardrails through

the canyon is hoped to make travel between Taos and the valley a safer prospect. Two 10-mile stretches through the canyon have been designated the sixth and seventh most dangerous stretches of rural highway.

DUST — Members can ski for free

Continued from Page B-1

"The material was deposited right on the bank. I'm concerned that the material will find its way back into the acequia," said Sisneros.

Concerned citizens fear that dust from a nearby tailings pond, known as Turquoise Lake, could be affecting students' health. On windy days dust causes extremely low visibility at the school and Francis Quintana, director of instruction for Questa, wants to know what effect, if any, the dust has on students.

ANGEL FIRE — You can ski one day free on a new Ski New Mexico Pass proposed by a ski promotion group.

New Mexico North and Ski New Mexico, ski promotion groups, announced Tuesday (Aug. 6) that in the future they will work together on tourism efforts—and unveiled the Ski New Mexico Pass.

Drew Judycki, president of Ski New Mexico, officially announced the birth of the Ski New Mexico Pass, said Don Borgeson, of the New Mexico North group.

It will be available to mem-

bers and will entitle them to one free ski day at each of the 10 ski areas throughout New Mexico.

The idea is to encourage membership in Ski New Mexico, said Judycki. In turn, members will be encouraged to travel to other ski areas and try them out, he added.

The possibility of New Mexico North and Ski New Mexico joining together for cooperative advertising and lobbying the Legislature was also discussed.

Because of cuts made in the Tourism and Economic Development budget during the Legislature's last session, New

Mexico North is interested in more lobbying, possibly with other—tourism—agencies throughout the state, Borgeson said.

In other business the group: —Discussed new procedures to get state matching funds for advertising;

—Began preparing for ad programs. The northern region has tentatively been allocated \$450,000 for this fiscal year;

—Scheduled meetings for Sept. 20 at the Plaza at Angel Fire. New Mexico North will meet at 10 a.m. and Ski New Mexico will meet at noon.

Dan Salter, D.D.S.
is pleased to announce that
Tom Simms, D.D.S.

has assumed his practice of
General Dentistry
at 650 N. Pueblo Rd.
Taos, New Mexico
758-8801

**Moreno Valley Recreation
Association**



First Annual Softball Tournament
August 23, 24 & 25

In Angel Fire at Angel Fire
Softball Fields

• "C" Division & Recreation Only

JAN 18, 1990

Molycorp tailings line pierced in canyon

By Dale Fulkerson
Staff Writer

A mixture of water and mine tailings shot 50 feet in the air Thursday (Jan. 11) when a worker punctured a Molycorp tailings pipe in the Red River Canyon a few miles below the Molycorp mine.

Leroy Apodaca, director of administrative services for Molycorp, said a worker was using a loader to move old slurry pipe away from an access road when the loader's bucket accidentally pierced the working pipe under a gravel driveway.

Apodaca said the water and tailings shot out of the approximately two-inch-by-four-inch hole for about two hours. The flow to the pipe was turned off at the mine when the accident was reported, but the pipe then must drain beyond the hole before the flow stops.

Most of the tailings that shot out of the pipe were caught in a small pond. The pond was one of several built along the pipeline specifically to catch leaks. However, some of the mixture bypassed the pond and contaminated a nearby acequia. The mixture flowed downstream about a quarter of a mile where it was stopped by a small earthen dam. The loader that pierced the pipe was also used to build the dam.

Richard Perkins, water resource specialist with the state Environmental Improvement Division, said that Moly-



This pond caught most of the spilled tailings slurry.

Dale Fulkerson

corp is responsible for cleanup of the spilled tailings.

Apodaca said that the tailings were not toxic. He said when tailings were accidentally released trout in the Red River could be suffocated by the silt.

He said that although there were heavy metals and toxic substances in the tailings, they are not found in sufficient quantities to be dangerous.

Roberto Vigil, a member of Concerned Citizens of Questa

and Cerro, was concerned about the effort of Molycorp in cleaning up the spill.

"I think Molycorp has a minimalist attitude. They only do as little as possible to get by," Vigil said.

Apodaca said the cleanup has already started on the road.

Cleanup on the acequia will start as soon as a contractor is hired and the ground dries enough to allow equipment in.

ed in Taos

oved the trial to Taos. It is scheduled to be strict court here.

one of the reasons the trial was moved was of calling a jury panel large enough from jury. A survey done for the defense showed the surveyed in Colfax and Union counties, the Braun case, and only eight replied could get a fair trial in Raton.

ession to the shooting of Valdez at his aring will be allowed as evidence.

hearing, deputy sheriff Charles Duran of ided that he had had a discussion with king him back to the Colfax County jail the oting.

Braun told him Valdez had been ordered on once in the back of the head and then shot lled over.

ied that at various times during the drive i, "I leave no witnesses" and "I might as shot the lady" and "You know I can deny t told you."

llow motions by the defense requesting a luation for Braun, a motion to allow Braun was deemed necessary and a motion allow-wear street clothes and not be shackled

r laboratory

ib- should be concerned that the new laboratory will bring more radioactive pollution to the region's air and more trucks loaded with radioactive materials to the area's highways.

Part of the local disappointment may stem from what at first was perceived as a positive overture from Tom Rush of the laboratory's project office. Rush asked the Concerned Citizens to help him set up a public forum, and members say Rush agreed to hold a panel discussion May 12.

After locals reserved space for the meeting and began publicity, Loughhead called Morrison to say the panel discussion was canceled and a May 9 public meeting had been scheduled instead. At that time, Morrison said Loughhead told him the DOE had "decided that it is not in our interest to participate in a debate format."

"We want to know what the DOE is afraid of," said Flo Walker of the Concerned Citizens. "All we want is to set up an open forum where people can hear both sides of the issue and decide for themselves what they think."

the rural road

il part with "in-kind" services, such as hiring bus drivers and using county personnel as staff.

Each van will make four round trips daily to Questa and Peñasco. The first route, from Taos to the Moly mine, begins at 5:45 a.m., goes to the mine, returns to the Questa Parish Hall and from there back to Taos arriving at the county courthouse at about 7:40 a.m.

For schedules or to request a pick- 000821



Joe Vigil and Leroy Rael investigate acequia filled with tailings slurry.

Old tailings line spills 2,000 gallons on fields

Friday the thirteenth was not a lucky day for MolyCorp.

Good Friday, April 13, just as a press release lauding Unocal's century-old "commitment to the environment" was leaving the corporation's Los Angeles headquarters, an old tailings pipe broke near downtown Questa dumping about 2,000 gallons of molybdenum tailings, filling a nearby irrigation ditch and fouling four or five acres of farmland. The MolyCorp molybdenum mine in the Red River Canyon is a Unocal subsidiary.

MolyCorp spokesman Leroy Apodaca said it was about 40 minutes from the time the break occurred until the flow could be stopped.

Leroy Rael, whose acequia was clogged by the spill, said "people are pretty upset."

Rael said the tailings coated and penetrated the bottom of the acequia, and he claimed that his fields will not be irrigable this year because of the accident.

Questa environmentalist Joe Vigil agreed. "Their spill prevention is not working. This will never be the same again," Vigil said.

Apodaca disagreed, saying crews were at work cleaning the acequias with backhoes and shovels and that fields will be restored "to the satisfaction of the owners."

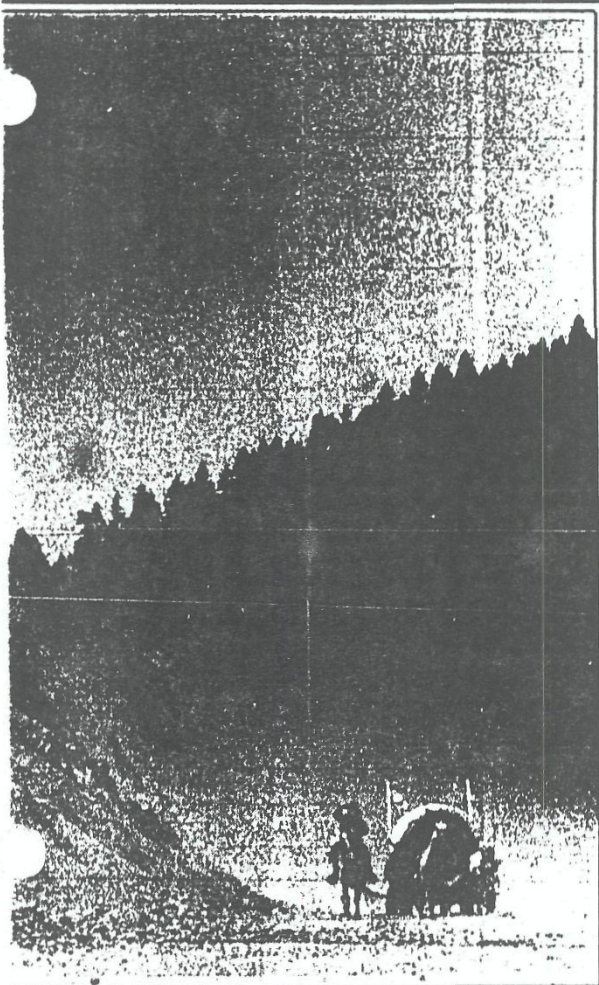
Groundwater is not threatened, Apodaca said, and the state's Environmental Improvement Division has been notified.

Rael has not allowed MolyCorp personnel on his property to work or survey the damage, Apodaca said.

The pipe that broke had simply worn out, Apodaca said. The mine has been working to replace aging pipes since it reopened last May after being dormant for three years. Apodaca said each section of aging pipe is being removed to check its condition, but that many old sections remain to be checked.

Apodaca said it is difficult to know which sections will wear out because turbulence in the pipes causes premature wear in unpredictable places.

When the pipe burst, tailings began flowing into the nearby acequia, Rael said. From there, it flowed over the



Dale Fulkerson

ing the dusty trail

Bailey's new covered wagon rolled down Bobcat Pass into Springfield on Saturday morning (April 28). Bailey bought the wagon and mules from Hendrix Springfield of Springtown, Texas, for \$1,000, with the stipulation that Springfield deliver the wagon and mules to Red River. Springfield decided to drive the wagon himself and his brother, Curtis, left Springtown April 7. He rode as far as Amarillo where Fred Whitbeck took his place. It took 21 days for Springfield and his brother to make the 612-mile journey to Red River. At left, Bailey feeds a carrot to Kate the mule.

Big bill

Injured workers strain county assets

By Dick Behnke
Staff Writer

Taos County faces a financial crisis that could cause a massive layoff of county employees or a "tremendous reduction of services," said Julia Valerio, acting county manager.

Taos County owes the New Mexico Association of Counties \$467,000 in worker's compensation insurance payments that must be paid by May 25. To pay that amount before the new fiscal year would throw the money-tight county into an almost unmanageable position, said Carmen Medina, county finance manager.

Taos County is not alone in the problem of worker's compensation, said Larry Lethgo of the New Mexico Association of

Counties, the group that oversees the statewide insurance pool. Thirteen of New Mexico's counties have deficits in the insurance pool, but Taos County's is larger than any except giant Bernalillo County's.

Gov. Garrey Carruthers is considering calling a special session of the Legislature on the problem of worker's compensation.

Figured on the number of employees, Taos County's problem is the largest in the state, Lethgo said. Bernalillo County has hundreds more employees than Taos. From July 1987 to July 1989, Taos County's worker's compensation claims exceeded its payments into the insurance fund

Please see BILL, Page A-2

Third moly spill

shuts down mill

By Bryan Welch
Staff Writer

QUESTA — The MolyCorp molybdenum mine will shut down its mill, officials said Tuesday (May 1), until 3,700 feet of pipe can be replaced in the company's tailings slurry lines that failed Monday night (April 30) for the third time this year.

Mine officials also admitted that contractors have twice dumped spilled tailings in inappropriate locations this year, once on a state highway department right of way and

once on land adjacent to Cabresto Creek.

A private landowner apparently believed the right of way was his land, according to MolyCorp environmental coordinator Scott Vail, and asked to use the tailings as fill material. The Cabresto Creek property belonged to a contractor hired to clean up a spill. In both cases, Vail said MolyCorp was unaware of the dumping until after the fact.

"We won't let that happen again," Vail said.

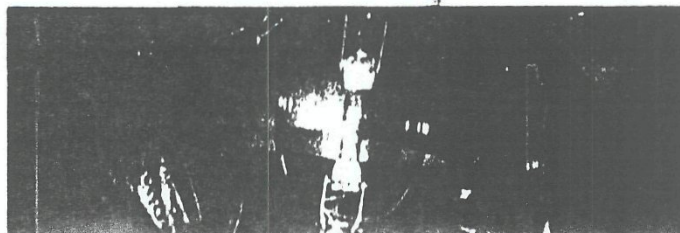
Please see SPILL, Page A-2

Consultant

ponders new jail

ord

remained in Kyea's coat on at his home. Hecho's estimation, an allegedly lied to investigated two people. A newspaper he reported a



BILL

Continued from Page A-1

by \$352,000. The association wants the county to pay \$314,000 of that amount, plus the \$152,000 contribution to stay in the pool next year.

Representatives of the county have already met with members of the association's board of directors to try and work out a payment plan. They will get an answer May 24 on whether or not the county must pay the \$467,000 all at once or can make payments, Valerio said.

In 1987 Taos joined with other counties in the state to provide a worker's compensation pool in order to reduce high costs of obtaining insurance from a private company. In 1987, Taos' contribution to the pool was \$61,000. In 1988, the contribution went to \$72,000. By 1989, Taos contribution was up to \$94,000.

Taos' number of claims per employee was the highest in the state, Medina said, and claims raise the amount the county must contribute.

Presently, 11 of the 105 full-time employees are receiving worker's compensation. That is slightly over 10

percent of all county employees receiving worker's compensation.

All 11 employees work in three county departments, the road department, the emergency services department and the sheriff's office. All departments must contribute from their individual budgets toward the worker's compensation.

The road department has seven receiving compensation, the ambulance has three and the sheriff's office one.

Of the seven road department employees receiving compensation three are actually back at work, but are still receiving medical benefits. The other four are out of work and being paid medical benefits and salary.

Of the 11 cases, nine are for back injuries, one for knee injuries and one for injuries received in a gas line explosion.

"Our proposal is to pay them \$125,000 now and the balance in the new fiscal year (which begins July 1)," Medina said.

Medina also said the board wanted to know what the county intends to do about reducing claims.

One suggestion was to hire a safety officer, Valerio said.

"There is also the idea of bringing the people back and have them do light work," Valerio said. "The sheriff's deputy, for example, could be a dispatcher or the guys in the road department could answer the phone or do filing."

The county is also looking at making job applicants sign a pre-employment medical form.

In all cases, people were hired by the departments to replace those receiving worker's compensation. Jobs needed doing, department heads said, and "we weren't aware we were going to be assessed like that," Medina said.

Should the association's board reject the county's plan, Valerio and Medina are already looking at a way of paying the association by taking a flat 10 percent off the top of all county department budgets, 12 percent from the sheriff, road department and ambulance.

"We have a \$400,000 budget," said Sheriff Felipe Cordova. "That's a reduction of \$42,000. That's two deputies' salaries."

SPILL

Continued from Page A-1

Pipes have failed three times this year in the Red River Canyon and downtown Questa, flooding acequias and pastures with molybdenum tailings.

The last pipe failure affected about four acres of farmland in Questa's Embargo Road area, near downtown, at 11:45 Monday night. Vail said the pipes are wearing out due to abrasion.

Tailings are pulverized rock from the company's underground mine that are mixed with water to form a slurry that can be piped to disposal ponds west of Questa.

Vail said operators at the mill noticed the pressure in the line drop and shut down the line within 15 minutes

after the break occurred.

Tailings slurry covered property belonging to Filemon Rael, Raul Montoya and Frank Montoya, according to Joe Vigil of the Concerned Citizens of Questa, a watchdog group critical of mine operations.

An April 13 line failure also covered Rael's property and filled a nearby acequia. Rael is a MolyCorp employee. In January, a spill in the Red River Canyon filled 100 yards of an acequia before it was stopped in a retention pond.

Stuart Castle, chief of the state Environmental Improvement Division's groundwater bureau, said the state is concerned that a spill could pollute the Red River or that tailings

might percolate down through the soil into the groundwater. Mine tailings could raise either the mineral content or the total dissolved solids in groundwater, Castle said, either of which would make the water undrinkable.

He said he could not say for sure how long pasture land covered with tailings would take to recover to full productivity, but that "it will probably be several years."

Vail said MolyCorp contractors are cleaning the contaminated land with backhoes and road graders, trying to remove as little of the topsoil as possible.

He said the mill will probably be shut down for about a week.

Vigil said the tailings spills are "devastating" to farmland.

Managers promise to keep mine open

QUESTA — MolyCorp officials vowed April 24 that they will not shut down the molybdenum mine.

The mine, which reopened in May 1989 is operating at less than 50 percent capacity and a \$1 million annual deficit. Still, said Leroy Apodaca, director of administrative services, "We are here for the duration; we are not looking for a shutdown."

Apodaca confirmed three potential buyers, including Europeans, looked at MolyCorp during its three-year shutdown, but said Unocal, the parent company, is not actively seeking buyers now.

The mine's 230 employees each received a \$1,078 bonus in February for increased productivity and safety and low absenteeism. This year's payroll will be \$8.5 million, as compared to a \$30 million payroll when the mine closed in

1986. Miners went back to work with salaries 28 percent below pre-shutdown levels.

Molybdenum, an agent used to harden steel, is selling for \$3.25 a pound now. A price of \$3.60 a pound would allow Moly to break even with the present workforce, according to mine officials.

Moly officials and environmentalists discussed ways of reclaiming 300 acres of tailings ponds west of Questa during a public-relations tour, and ways to lessen the effect of a proposed new tailings disposal site in the saddle of Guadalupe Mountain, just west of the current ponds.

Town manager Gus Cordova offered to give MolyCorp free sludge from the town's sewage treatment plant to help create topsoil on top of the tailings dumps.

MAY 3 '90

early y Reynolds had the foresight and courage to declare the Rio Grande a basin and to hold all water users to the same, strict standards. In the development-oriented 1950s, strict water laws were a gutsy proposal.

Once the acequias banded together to lobby Gov. Toney Anaya to remove Reynolds from perhaps the state's more powerful office. They were, thankfully, unsuccessful.

While other appointed officials changed their views with New Mexico's political tides, Reynolds served under 10 chief executives and stuck to his guns. This was because he was eminently knowledgeable of water law and unchallengably honest. Taoseños close to water negotiations say he imbued his staff with that same sense of fair play and professionalism.

He had that rare ability to separate issues from personalities, and this earned him the respect of many of his Taos opponents. More importantly, he had the capacity to keep politics out of water appropriations. He once told a friend, "If you like the way the state has allocated liquor licenses, you would love water allocation if politics got involved."

This week Taoseños are remembering not the state engineer who shut off the water to the Milagro beanfield. The man we remember today is the one who helped the Town of Taos acquire 400 acre-feet of water from the San Juan-Chama Diversion Project and who was working with Taos County in its quest for 1,000 acre-feet more.

He knew that without large amounts of water held in storage in Taos County, the acequia systems would dry up of their own accord as agricultural rights are sold to developers. He knew that farmers cannot always resist when developers offer them high prices for water rights and for their irrigated land.

Perhaps Reynolds' way was the best way to tend the beanfield after all.

Have a drink

Molycorp environmentalist Scott Vail set a standard for the public-relations officials of Northern New Mexico last week when he volunteered, for the benefit of TV news cameras, to eat some tailings slurry that had escaped a broken pipe and inundated nearby acequias and fields.

He was demonstrating, he said, how relatively harmless the slurry was.

Whether you are convinced by the demonstration, it's impressive.

Perhaps someone from the Department of Energy could give a similar demonstration with a plutonium highball and help us rest more easily with the radioactive edifice of Los Alamos rising above our local land.

000824



Forum

Dig and dump

Editor:

Regarding Molycorp's commitment to a clean environment — what a joke. Another spill from their rotten pipes has occurred. Although this clown named Vail says it was a small spill, it is the largest and the most devastating to date.

Yes, Roy Rael is upset. You see, the water source for his livestock was contaminated. After Leroy Apodaca committed Molycorp's water tank to haul fresh water for Roy's cattle then finding out it was the same tank being used in the spill's cleanup efforts, I say that's poor public relations to say the least.

Now Molycorp seems to have lost directions to the tailing ponds. They are spreading the contaminated material from their cleanup all over town. I'm surprised they didn't haul it off to the Cerro dump. I find it hard to believe that we can be fined \$100 or more for littering the side of a State Highway, yet Molycorp can dump tons of waste all over the place and nothing is said.

Molycorp is like a cat — dig a hole, dump their crap, cover it a little and hope nobody smells it. It is a dirty shame they even eat their own waste like Scott Vail did in front of the TV camera. I hope he got a bad case of diarrhea like Roy's cows did.

Recently, in California, Unocal, Molycorp's parent company, lost a \$5.5 million lawsuit for polluting. Yet in Questa while they celebrate Earth Day on one side of town, on the other side they are trying hard, even at night, to hide their waste. I do believe another \$5.5 million or more for this area is more than appropriate.

JOE VIGIL

Cerro

Right prices

Editor:

In last week's *The Taos News* there was an advertisement placed by U.S. Canine Training Specialists, Inc., stating that it cost "\$25 to \$50" to adopt a pet at the animal shelter.

Actually the charge is \$20 to \$40 depending on whether it is a cat or a dog and the sex of the animal. The ad also says to ask the shelter staff if a discount arrangement has been made with local veterinarians for spaying or neutering the pet. This is not necessary, as the charge for adoption includes neutering and spaying fees, and this arrangement is honored by all the local veterinarians.

It will be appreciated if you will publish a correction.

EDWIN BEWLEY

Taos Animal Shelter, Inc.

The Taos News welcome to the Forum. Let's make it a national, less than 200 word hand-signed by the author. Columns must be limited.

Please include your address. Preference will be given to those who do not wish to withhold their names.

Submissions may be made by mail. Address your letter to: *The Taos News*, Box U, Taos, N.M.

Save a

Editor:

Make every day Earth Day. Save a quart or two of water. Flush your toilet by placing a small amount of water down into the cabinet flushing unit — not another kind. A quart will do just fine in most cases. Will anything that does not dissolve in water and does not dissolve in water?

Think of the hundreds of gallons of water that are used in every household in Taos. Brick in the toilet, or tiles that would be saved if the procedure were followed. Hold in the United States as those cabinets are water-saving in mind.

R.P. DICKEY

Taos

The alchemy of horsehide and

In ancient seasons, ensconced in shadowy dugouts, we as a species undoubtedly spent long afternoons picking insects from one another's backsides. The most industrious of our forbearers were, however, more tuned to hits than nits. Some mothers and fathers even then patiently instructed their offspring in the art of selecting and honing a balanced club so that the kid might one day hit



Your turn

Richard del Castillo

we want and need, that is to say, the game of baseball itself. So don't pity the palookas and chumettes who fail to get rich

League diamonds, keep in mind that most umpires harbor deep atavisms when it comes to baseball bats. Umps are throwbacks from the word go. They do not like aluminum. The sound emitted from a metal bat tells no story. The ball could be anywhere, and it usually is.

Who doubts that in the umpire's reveries between, and sometimes during, pitches, the

My play know that last best. They are. When the wear, they get shoe polish to

Maybe a should be in lecture. They get them sweet spot in four inches of the barrel. The phre

Molycorp tailings rupture line again

By Patrick Henry
Staff Writer

The sixth tailings spill in seven months dumped about 1,500 gallons of molybdenum tailings into a holding pit at the Molycorp molybdenum mine in the Red River Canyon Friday morning (May 25).

Like the five other spills that have occurred since the mine's mill began pumping slurry to tailings ponds west of Questa in October, Friday's spill was the result of a burst pipe.

"No watercourses were affected by the spill," said mine manager David Shoemaker.

The spill, which lasted about 20 minutes, was caused by a rupture in a worn section of pipe which had been scheduled for testing but had not been reached since maintenance crews were busy focusing on pipelines which were closer to river areas and private properties.

"Clean up will consist of removing tailings from the roads and from local patches of uncultivated grassland affected by the spray," Shoemaker said.

Two recent spills in April forced Molycorp to shut down an entire length of pipe until worn sections were replaced with the new pipe. Molycorp officials believed they had removed all the weakened sections, and they were in the process of checking each section in the 27 miles of pipeline when last week's spill occurred.

Molycorp is in the process of switching their entire pipeline system to rubber-lined pipe, a project estimated to cost \$3 million, according to mine spokesman Leroy Apodaca. The plan has been to spread the cost over a long period of time while paying special attention to those sections of pipe that are most likely to burst, Apodaca said.

Five fatalities

By Dale Fulkerson
Staff Writer

At least 12 people died on New Mexico roads over the long Memorial Day weekend, five of them in Taos County.

Scott Greever, 16, of Amarillo, Texas died Saturday morning (May 26) when the all-terrain-vehicle he was riding reportedly struck a water diversion on Forest Service Road 70 near Angel Fire. The vehicle overturned and crushed Greever. The police report says he died en route to Holy Cross Hospital.

Robert Sandoval, 39, of Española, died early Sunday morning (May 27) when his motorcycle apparently left the road and went into the river just west of Red River. Evidence suggests that Sandoval did not die instantly as his motorcycle was sitting upright in the river on its kickstand. Sandoval's body was found at 8 a.m. about 25 yards downstream.

The cause of Sandoval's

death is still under investigation.

Leonard D. Ledoux, 2, Pamela D. Bowman, 37, of Cimarron, died Saturday afternoon sometime between 2 and 5 p.m. when the Honda motorcycle they riding went over an embankment east of Red River.

The police report said the motorcycle was apparently going too fast to make a curve on State Road 578. They said the dirt shoulder then plowed down the embankment. They were pronounced dead at the scene.

Manuel Cisneros, 28, of Taos, apparently died from injuries he received when his car left the road about a quarter-mile south of Piñon State Road 68 at about 1 p.m. Authorities said that Cisneros' car apparently rolled several times before coming to rest upside down on the side of the Rio Grande. Cisneros was pinned under the car.

Cisneros died early Monday morning (May 28).

Trees look lovely and make vital oxygen

By Lucille Quintana
Third in a series

*"I think that I shall never see
A poem lovely as a tree."*

So says the poet and in several more sexy similes — sometimes spiritual — he pours out his love, concluding:

*"Poems are made by fools like me,
But only God can make a tree."*

Be that as it may, you and I can help do the Lord's work by planting the acorns or moving an ill-placed cottonwood from where it has sprung from a tap root to where it will shade our home.

Kipling was well ahead of his time. Trees are now top news. Reforestation is a growing concern. According to *World Watch Magazine*, "one large and shady tree can save a homemaker up to \$73 a year in air-conditioning bills — and 100 million trees could knock a hefty \$4 billion off the nation's energy bills." Tell your air-conditioned friends.

Trees are really important sources of



Tierra Madre

oxygen for the planet's atmosphere as our increasing use of gasoline and other forms of energy is decreasing the oxygen content of the atmosphere and replacing that life-giving gas with carbon dioxide.

Strangely enough, one way we can help save the forests that are being slashed down is to eat less meat!

Thousands of acres of trees are being cut — and often burned right on the spot — to provide South American land to raise beef or to raise grain to feed animals.

The experts tell us a steer consumes 16 pounds of grain or soybeans to gain just one pound of weight. How much better off we would be if we simply ate the grains

and seeds. Not only are they nutritious, but they don't contain the animal fat that causes heart disease.

"Stop the killing" is the rallying cry of Malcolm Brown, well-known Taos area builder and environmental activist, long-time vegetarian — and an exceptionally healthy man — Brown believes we can all make a significant contribution to the health of the planet — and ours — by reducing meat consumption.

Consider cultivating a tree or two as an axiom of today's environmental movement. "The best tree you'll ever plant is one you plant today!"

Molycorp spills again

By Bryan Welch
Staff Writer

Molycorp pipelines carrying liquefied mine tailings through Questa burst for the seventh time in the past year Nov. 19, filling nearly half a mile of a nearby irrigation ditch with mud.

Mine manager Dave Shoemaker attributed the break to a mistake made by crews replacing the tailings lines. He said crews must have replaced the wrong section of pipe during recent improvements to the line, allowing a weak line to remain in use and eventually to fail.

Joe Vigil, a resident of nearby Cerro who has been a watchdog for mine affairs, said he expects the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to live up to a commitment to fine the mine for the repeated spills.

Officials of the state's Environmental Improvement Division, which oversees the mine for the EPA, did not return phone calls from this newspaper.

Since the mine reopened last fall, Shoemaker said 375 sections of pipe have been replaced, in-

cluding about 30 percent of the line through town, at a cost of \$750,000. In addition, crews from the mine have measured every section of the pipeline from the mine in Red River Canyon to tailings disposal ponds west of Questa, a project that consumed more than 2,000 man hours.

Eventually, the entire line will be replaced with new, durable, rubber-lined pipe, Shoemaker said.

He said crews would immediately begin re-measuring the entire pipeline. It should take a six-person crew about two months to finish the project.

He said local contractors have been hired to hand-clean the Questa South Ditch with shovels, in order to protect the ditch from damage that might be caused by heavy equipment. About 12 people are at work on the project, according to project manager Leroy Apodaca, and they should be done by the end of this week.

Apodaca said re-doing the pipe survey will probably cost the mine about \$250,000.

"We really regret this incident," Shoemaker said.

Teacher, union sue district

By Julie Mullen
Staff Writer

Ann MacNaughton and the Taos Federation of United School Employees (T-FUSE) are suing the Taos Board of Education in district court claiming the former teacher was not allowed to complete the district's formal grievance procedure.

MacNaughton was terminated by the district at the end of the last school year. She said the district alleged that she was difficult to work with and that she didn't adequately perform her duties as a teacher. She denied those allegations.

District officials refused to comment on their decision not to renew MacNaughton's contract.

The suit is based on a grievance filed by MacNaughton on May 3, stating that she was unhappy with the way an evaluation had been conducted prior to her termination.

Grievance proceedings must follow a set of guidelines laid out in the collective bargaining agreement between the school district and the union. During

the grievance process, a response from MacNaughton was rejected by the superintendent because it was allegedly late, and the grievance was declared "null and void." MacNaughton said her response was not late and requested arbitration. The superintendent refused.

According to the collective bargaining agreement, a grievance may be discontinued because of a late response, but MacNaughton and T-FUSE allege that the superintendent does not have that authority. Their position is that the issue should go to arbitration.

MacNaughton and T-FUSE filed a Complaint to Compel Arbitration Oct. 10 in district court. The complaint states the school board refused to comply with the guidelines of their collective bargaining agreement with T-FUSE.

Following the initiation of her grievance procedure, MacNaughton, who has been teaching in the Taos schools since 1979, was given notice of termination. She appealed under state law, and the matter was brought to arbitration. The arbitrators upheld the school board's deci-

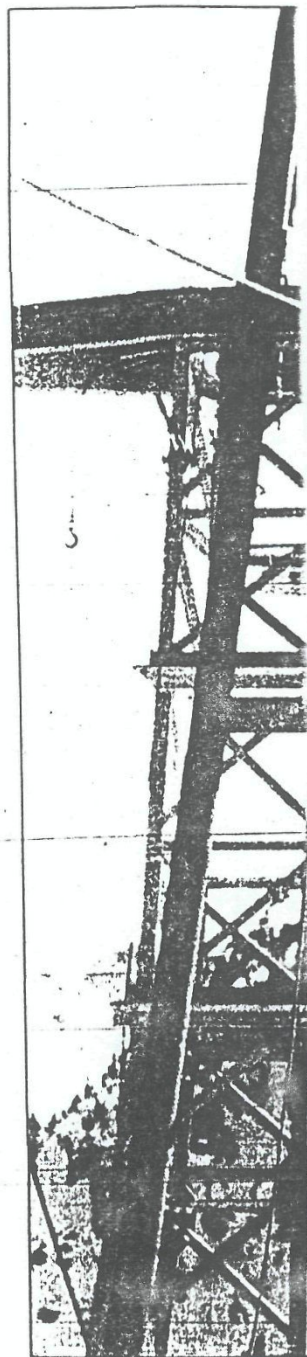
sion to terminate the teacher.

"This is the union's lawsuit," MacNaughton said. "I won't gain anything from it. I'm doing it to provide other teachers with job security."

Paul Broome, attorney for the New Mexico Federation of Teachers, the parent organization of T-FUSE, said the issue in the lawsuit is whether one party in a grievance procedure can unilaterally end the process, even if a response from the other party is late. "The question is whether the school board has the right to suspend or abort the grievance procedure."

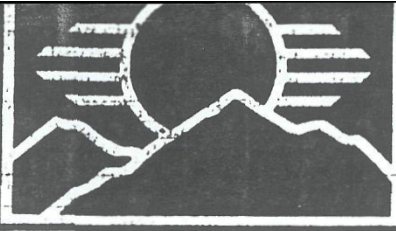
John Kennedy, of Simon, Cuddy and Friedman in Santa Fe, attorneys for the Taos school district, said, "I believe the school board acted in good faith and followed the terms of the collective bargaining agreement."

The school district filed an Answer to Complaint to Compel Arbitration on Nov. 26. It requests a dismissal of the case because MacNaughton is no longer a school employee and therefore cannot pursue a grievance.



Cold steel

With Kachina Peak as a backdrop, lift maintenance workers high on one of the uppers of the new chairlift Saturday (left) worked on the back side of the mount-



Deluge Widespread flooding declared a disaster

By Jess Williams
Staff Writer

"We were lucky."

That's how county manager Ambrose Mascareñas summed up last week's flooding damage in light of the fact that no loss of human life was reported.

While it's still too early to get an exact figure on damage, Mascareñas estimated upwards of \$500,000 in damage to bridges and roads throughout the county, particularly in the valleys around Peñasco.

In Peñasco, he said, three county bridges valued at \$100,000 each were destroyed by the flood. Another bridge in Arroyo Hondo will require extensive

renovation once the waters recede.

In addition, he said several private bridges were washed out, leaving some families in the county stranded. The U.S. National Guard provided equipment to reach stranded homes.

There was a scare in Peñasco that septic tank leakage caused by the downpour and overflowed river might have contaminated the town well, Mascareñas said, but investigators from the state's Environmental Improvement Division did an inspection and declared the water safe.

For two days while the inspections were underway, drinking water was trucked into Peñasco from Taos. At

See FLOODING, Page A-2

Molycorp pipes spill slurry again

By Elaine Querry
Staff Writer

About two dozen workers have been cleaning up 20,000 gallons of chalky clay-like slurry from a pipeline spill at Questa's Molycorp mine.

The spill — one of the largest in the mine's history — occurred at 6:21 p.m. May 21. It is the sixth slurry spill from the tailings pipelines since the mine reopened in the fall of 1989.

Three private contractors and the mine cleanup crew are dredging up the tailings this week. The project should take 10 days, mine officials said, and is being monitored by the New Mexico Environmental Improvement Division.

As of Tuesday (May 28), two-thirds of the ditch was clean and water was running to the upper portion of the ditch. The acequia is expected to be in full operation by today.

An employee who lives near the pipeline notified the mine management of the spill. The pipeline was immediately shut down while damage was assessed to the acequia and clean-up operations were begun.

The tailings, which consist of 40 percent solid crushed rock and 60 percent water, backwashed 75 yards up the Questa Citizen's South Ditch and then ran 1.5 miles down the ditch. The non-toxic slurry then ran down a small feeder ditch and onto a roadway. That area was cleaned immediately, said Leroy Apodoca, Molycorp spokesman.

There were 14 people irrigating from the ditch at the time of the spill out of a total of 26 water-right owners on the acequia.

"The priority (of the clean-up) is to

Please see MOLYCORP, Page A-2



Pomp, circumstance and hug

Adrian Vigil, right, gets a hug from an unidentified person at Taos High's Anaya Field Saturday ceremonies. mask the joy on his face or that of his friends as he graduates from Taos High School.

Arcanist torches restaurant

er sues town, gets old job back

ted to work following the accident. Gallegos' reinstatement at a salary of around \$20,000 a year, along with an undisclosed amount of cash, is part of the settlement reach by his attorneys and the Risk Management Division of the state government.

"When the town denied me a hearing, I sued," Gallegos said Tuesday. "It was finally settled in April."

Cordova said Gallegos was not given a hearing because his violation of policy did not require one.

"Now, because of the recent Loudermilk decision by the U.S. Supreme Court, his case would have called for a hearing," Cordova said.

Both Gallegos and Cordova would not comment on the amount of cash involved, but Cordova said the money would not come out of the town.

"Risk Management, as our insurance company, handled the case and agreed to the settlement," Cordova said. He also didn't think the town's premiums would rise "because we have

had very few claims."

Gallegos also has a suit pending in District Court against the Village of Questa, where he was not rehired as police chief when newly elected mayor Lawrence Gallegos took office.

"They would only say it was for budget reasons," Tommy Gallegos said. "I got a letter of appreciation for a job well done, but never notice of termination."

Gallegos said the court date is set for November.



eler to try to reach his 85-year-old mother washed out.

Jess Williams

to three months, Mascareñas said. In fact, Mascareñas said instruction of all the shed-out county bridges would take three months or more due to engineering assistants planned to reinforce them, raise them and otherwise protect them from similar damage in the future. As an added insurance policy, he said, the county plans to dig the river channel

through the Pefiasco valley this summer — probably during July — to make it deeper and wider in trouble spots.

Mascareñas said county workers used slabs of concrete removed from the courthouse complex sidewalk during renovation to shore up the Rio Pueblo, whose overflowing waters threatened homes and livestock just below State Road 75.

Schools aim at cost

By Jess Williams
Staff Writer

The Taos Public Schools last year spent \$374,000 on electricity, but the board of education has promised to pay for a project designed to take the bite out of that bill.

Arlene Martinez, business manager for the district, told the board last week that work on a retrofit project at the high school to convert its heat to natural gas is underway and could be completed as early as Sept. 1 of this year.

Using 60 percent matching funds from the New Mexico Department of Energy and Minerals, Martinez said the district will invest about \$200,000 of its own money into the project.

She estimated the project will save the district about \$60,000 a year in fuel costs, paying for itself within less than five years.

Work began on the outside of the buildings in May, but most of the intensive work will happen during the summer months, she said.

MOLYCORP

Continued from Page A-1

clean the irrigation ditch, to allow access to downstream users," Apodoca said.

The exact cause of the spill has yet to be determined, but a sudden surge in the line pressure probably caused the coupling to break, said MolyCorp manager David Shoemaker. The incident is under investigation.

"The spill was caused by pressure, but we don't know what caused the pressure," Apodoca said. "It's really frustrating. We've been physically inspecting the line, and we don't have any worn pipe in the system."

State EID inspectors combed over the spill site the following day and are working with MolyCorp monitoring the spill on a daily basis. No fines

have been assessed until the final report on the incident is completed. That report isn't expected for another week or so, said Judith Espinosa, an EID employee.

The inspectors, she said are continuing to inspect the area, take pictures, sample liquids and monitor any surface water.

"We were trying to sample the river (the day following the spill), but it was difficult because it was running so high and fast," Espinosa said. "A lot of concerned citizens called our emergency line Tuesday night."

The ruptured pipe was one of three that carry the tailings nine miles from the processing mill to the slurry pond.

The easement for the pipes runs across Forest Service, MolyCorp and private properties.